

# Boswell's Life of Johnson

By  
Lord Macaulay

BY  
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## PREFACE.

THE references to Boswell in these notes are to the Globe Edition of *Boswell's Life of Johnson*, by Mr. Mowbray Morris. I have appended the year (*e.g.* sub anno 1763, etc., etc.) in order that readers possessing other versions of Boswell may be able to verify quotations.

In a book of this kind there is of course very little original work: a good reference library and the judicious use of the scissors and the paste-pot are, as a rule, all that is required for the production of an annotated edition of an English classic.

My thanks are due to many friends for the loan of books, and especially to Lord Lilford, who kindly granted me permission to use his valuable library. Mr. John Indermaur helped me "to decide on the comparative merits of the Common Side in the King's Bench prison and of Mount Scoundrel in the Fleet." Mr. A. W. Pickard-Cambridge, Fellow of Oriel College, Oxford, explained to me "the famous dogma of the old physiologists." Mr. Graves, printseller and publisher, 6 Pall Mall, London, supplied me with information for the last note in the book. I am indebted to my



## SAMUEL JOHNSON.

SEPTEMBER, 1831.

"The Life of Samuel Johnson, LL.D. Including a Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides,—by James Boswell, Esq. A new Edition, with numerous Additions and Notes. By John Wilson Croker, LL.D., F.R.S. Five Volumes. 8vo. London: 1831."

THIS work has greatly disappointed us. Whatever faults we may have been prepared to find in it, we fully expected that it would be a valuable addition to English literature; that it would contain many curious facts, and many judicious remarks; that the style of the notes would be neat, clear, and precise; and that the typographical execution would be, as in new editions of classical works it ought to be, almost faultless. We are sorry to be obliged to say that the merits of Mr. Croker's performance are on a par with those of a certain leg of mutton on which Dr. Johnson dined, while travelling from London to Oxford, and which he, with characteristic energy, pronounced to be "as bad as bad could be; ill fed, ill killed, ill kept, and ill dressed." This edition is ill compiled, ill arranged, ill written, and ill printed.

Nothing in the work has astonished us so much as the ignorance or carelessness of Mr. Croker with respect to facts and dates. Many of his blunders are such as we should be surprised to hear any well-educated gentleman commit, even in conversation. The notes absolutely swarm with mis-statements, into which the editor never would have fallen, 20

if he had taken the slightest pains to investigate the truth of his assertions, or if he had even been well acquainted with the book on which he undertook to comment. We will give a few instances.

Mr. Croker tells us in a note that Derrick, who was master of the ceremonies at Bath, died very poor in 1760.<sup>1</sup> We read on ; and, a few pages later, we find Dr. Johnson and Boswell talking of this same Derrick as still living and reigning, as having retrieved his character, as possessing so much power 10 over his subjects at Bath, that his opposition might be fatal to Sheridan's lectures on oratory.<sup>2</sup> And all this is in 1763. The fact is, that Derrick died in 1769.

In one note we read, that Sir Herbert Croft, the author of that pompous and foolish account of Young, which appears among the Lives of the Poets, died in 1805.<sup>3</sup> Another note in the same volume states, that this same Sir Herbert Croft died at Paris, after residing abroad for fifteen years, on the 27th of April, 1816.<sup>4</sup>

Mr. Croker informs us, that Sir William Forbes of Pit- 20 sligo, the author of the Life of Beattie, died in 1816.<sup>5</sup> A Sir William Forbes undoubtedly died in that year, but not the Sir William Forbes in question, whose death took place in 1806. It is notorious indeed, that the biographer of Beattie lived just long enough to complete the history of his friend. Eight or nine years before the date which Mr. Croker has assigned for Sir William's death, Sir Walter Scott lamented that event in the introduction to the fourth canto of *Marmion*. Every school-girl knows the lines :

30 "Scarce had lamented Forbes paid  
The tribute to his Minstrel's shade ;  
The tale of friendship scarce was told,  
Ere the narrator's heart was cold :  
Far may we search before we find  
A heart so manly and so kind !"

In one place we are told, that Allan Ramsay, the painter,

<sup>1</sup> I. 364.    <sup>2</sup> I. 404.    <sup>3</sup> IV. 321.    <sup>4</sup> IV. 428.    <sup>5</sup> II. 262.

was born in 1709, and died in 1784;<sup>1</sup> in another, that he died in 1784, in the seventy-first year of his age.<sup>2</sup>

In one place, Mr. Croker says, that at the commencement of the intimacy between Dr. Johnson and Mrs. Thrale, in 1765, the lady was twenty-five years old.<sup>3</sup> In other places he says, that Mrs. Thrale's thirty-fifth year coincided with Johnson's seventieth.<sup>4</sup> Johnson was born in 1709. If, therefore, Mrs. Thrale's thirty-fifth year coincided with Johnson's seventieth, she could have been only twenty-one years old in 1765. This is not all. Mr. Croker, in another 10 place, assigns the year 1777 as the date of the complimentary lines which Johnson made on Mrs. Thrale's thirty-fifth birth-day.<sup>5</sup> If this date be correct, Mrs. Thrale must have been born in 1742, and could have been only twenty-three when her acquaintance with Johnson commenced. Mr. Croker therefore gives us three different statements as to her age. Two of the three must be incorrect. We will not decide between them; we will only say, that the reasons which Mr. Croker gives for thinking that Mrs. Thrale was exactly thirty-five years old when Johnson was seventy, 20 appear to us utterly frivolous.

Again, Mr. Croker informs his readers that "Lord Mansfield survived Johnson full ten years."<sup>6</sup> Lord Mansfield survived Dr. Johnson just eight years and a quarter.

Johnson found in the library of a French lady, whom he visited during his short visit to Paris, some works which he regarded with great disdain. "I looked," says he, "into the books in the lady's closet, and, in contempt, showed them to Mr. Thrale. Prince Titi, Bibliothèque des Fées, and other books."<sup>7</sup> "The History of Prince Titi," observes 30 Mr. Croker, "was said to be the autobiography of Frederick Prince of Wales, but was probably written by Ralph his secretary." A more absurd note never was penned. The history of Prince Titi, to which Mr. Croker refers, whether

<sup>1</sup> iv. 105.

<sup>2</sup> v. 281.

<sup>3</sup> i. 510.

<sup>4</sup> iv. 271, 322.

<sup>5</sup> iii. 463.

<sup>6</sup> ii. 151.

<sup>7</sup> iii. 271.

written by Prince Frederick or by Ralph, was certainly never published. If Mr. Croker had taken the trouble to read with attention that very passage in Park's Royal and Noble Authors which he cites as his authority, he would have seen that the manuscript was given up to the government. Even if this memoir had been printed, it is not very likely to find its way into a French lady's bookcase. And would any man in his senses speak contemptuously of a French lady, for having in her possession an English work, 10 so curious and interesting as a Life of Prince Frederick, whether written by himself or by a confidential secretary, must have been? The history at which Johnson laughed was a very proper companion to the Bibliothèque des Fées, a fairy tale about good Prince Titi and naughty Prince Violent. Mr. Croker may find it in the Magasin des Enfants, the first French book which the little girls of England read to their governesses.

Mr. Croker states that Mr. Henry Bate, who afterwards assumed the name of Dudley, was proprietor of the Morning 20 Herald, and fought a duel with George Robinson Stoney, in consequence of some attacks on Lady Strathmore which appeared in that paper.<sup>1</sup> Now Mr. Bate was then connected, not with the Morning Herald, but with the Morning Post; and the dispute took place before the Morning Herald was in existence. The duel was fought in January, 1777. The Chronicle of the Annual Register for that year contains an account of the transaction, and distinctly states that Mr. Bate was editor of the Morning Post. The Morning Herald, as any person may see by looking at any number of it, was 30 not established till some years after this affair. For this blunder there is, we must acknowledge, some excuse; for it certainly seems almost incredible to a person living in our time that any human being should ever have stooped to fight with a writer in the Morning Post.

"James de Douglas," says Mr. Croker, "was requested by

King Robert Bruce, in his last hours, to repair with his heart to Jerusalem, and humbly to deposit it at the sepulchre of our Lord, which he did in 1329."<sup>1</sup> Now, it is well known that he did no such thing, and for a very sufficient reason, because he was killed by the way. Nor was it in 1329 that he set out. Robert Bruce died in 1329, and the expedition of Douglas took place in the following year, "*Quand le printemps vint et la saison,*" says Froissart, in June, 1330, says Lord Hailes, whom Mr. Croker cites as the authority for his statement. 10

Mr. Croker tells us that the great Marquis of Montrose was beheaded at Edinburgh in 1650.<sup>2</sup> There is not a forward boy at any school in England who does not know that the marquis was hanged. The account of the execution is one of the finest passages in Lord Clarendon's History. We can scarcely suppose that Mr. Croker has never read that passage; and yet we can scarcely suppose that any person who has ever perused so noble and pathetic a story can have utterly forgotten all its most striking circumstances.

"Lord Townshend," says Mr. Croker, "was not secretary 20 of state till 1720."<sup>3</sup> Can Mr. Croker possibly be ignorant that Lord Townshend was made secretary of state at the accession of George I. in 1714, that he continued to be secretary of state till he was displaced by the intrigues of Sunderland and Stanhope at the close of 1716, and that he returned to the office of secretary of state, not in 1720, but in 1721?

Mr. Croker, indeed, is generally unfortunate in his statements respecting the Townshend family. He tells us that Charles Townshend, the chancellor of the exchequer, was "nephew of the prime minister, and son of a peer who was 30 secretary of state, and leader of the House of Lords."<sup>4</sup> Charles Townshend was not nephew, but grand-nephew, of the Duke of Newcastle, not son, but grandson, of the Lord Townshend who was secretary of state, and leader of the House of Lords.

<sup>1</sup> IV. 29.<sup>2</sup> II. 526.<sup>3</sup> III. 52.<sup>4</sup> III. 368.

"General Burgoyne surrendered at Saratoga," says Mr. Croker, "in March, 1778."<sup>1</sup> General Burgoyne surrendered on the 17th of October, 1777.

"Nothing," says Mr. Croker, "can be more unfounded than the assertion that Byng fell a martyr to *political party*. By a strange coincidence of circumstances, it happened that there was a total change of administration between his condemnation and his death: so that one party presided at his trial, and another at his execution: 10 there can be no stronger proof that he was *not* a political martyr."<sup>2</sup> Now what will our readers think of this writer, when we assure them that this statement, so confidently made respecting events so notorious, is absolutely untrue? One and the same administration was in office when the court-martial on Byng commenced its sittings, through the whole trial, at the condemnation, and at the execution. In the month of November, 1756, the Duke of Newcastle and Lord Hardwicke resigned; the Duke of Devonshire became first lord of the treasury, and Mr Pitt, secretary 20 of state. This administration lasted till the month of April, 1757. Byng's court-martial began to sit on the 28th of December, 1756. He was shot on the 14th of March, 1757. There is something at once diverting and provoking in the cool and authoritative manner in which Mr. Croker makes these random assertions. We do not suspect him of intentionally falsifying history. But of this high literary misdemeanour we do without hesitation accuse him, that he has no adequate sense of the obligation which a writer, who professes to relate facts, owes to the public. We 30 accuse him of a negligence and an ignorance analogous to that *crassa negligentia* and that *crassa ignorantia*, on which the law animadverts in magistrates and surgeons, even when malice and corruption are not imputed. We accuse him of having undertaken a work which, if not performed with strict accuracy, must be very much worse than useless,

<sup>1</sup> iv. 222.<sup>2</sup> i. 298.



and of having performed it as if the difference between an accurate and an inaccurate statement was not worth the trouble of looking into the most common book of reference.

But we must proceed. These volumes contain mistakes more gross, if possible, than any that we have yet mentioned. Boswell has recorded some observations made by Johnson on the changes which had taken place in Gibbon's religious opinions. That Gibbon when a lad at Oxford turned Catholic is well known. "It is said," cried Johnson, laughing, "that he has been a Mahommedan." "This sarcasm," says the editor, "probably alludes to the tenderness with which Gibbon's malevolence to Christianity induced him to treat Mahommedanism in his history." Now the sarcasm was uttered in 1776; and that part of the History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire which relates to Mahommedanism was not published till 1788, twelve years after the date of this conversation, and near four years after the death of Johnson.<sup>1</sup>

"It was in the year 1761," says Mr. Croker, "that Goldsmith published his Vicar of Wakefield. This leads the editor to observe a more serious inaccuracy of Mrs. Piozzi,

<sup>1</sup> A defence of this blunder was attempted. That the celebrated chapters in which Gibbon has traced the progress of Mohammedanism were not written in 1776 could not be denied. But it was confidently asserted that his partiality to Mohammedanism appeared in his first volume. This assertion is untrue. No passage which can by any art be construed into the faintest indication of the faintest partiality for Mohammedanism has ever been quoted or ever will be quoted from the first volume of the History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire.

To what, then, it has been asked, could Johnson allude? Possibly to some anecdote or some conversation of which all trace is lost. One conjecture may be offered, though with diffidence. Gibbon tells us in his memoirs, that at Oxford he took a fancy for studying Arabic, and was prevented from doing so by the remonstrances of his tutor. Soon after this, the young man fell in with Bossuet's controversial writings, and was speedily converted by them to the Roman Catholic faith. The apostacy of a gentleman commoner would of course be for a time the chief subject of conversation in the common room of Magdalene. His whim about Arabic learning would naturally be mentioned, and would give occasion to some jokes about the probability of his turning Mussulman. If such jokes were made, Johnson, who frequently visited Oxford, was very likely to hear of them.

than Mr. Boswell notices, when he says Johnson left her table to go and sell the *Vicar of Wakefield* for Goldsmith. Now Dr. Johnson was not acquainted with the *Thrales* till 1765, four years after the book had been published."<sup>1</sup> Mr. Croker, in reprehending the fancied inaccuracy of Mrs. Thrale, has himself shown a degree of inaccuracy, or, to speak more properly, a degree of ignorance, hardly credible. In the first place, Johnson became acquainted with the *Thrales*, not in 1765, but in 1764, and during the last 10 weeks of 1764 dined with them every Thursday, as is written in Mrs. Piozzi's anecdotes. In the second place, Goldsmith published the *Vicar of Wakefield*, not in 1761, but in 1766. Mrs. Thrale does not pretend to remember the precise date of the summons which called Johnson from her table to the help of his friend. She says only that it was near the beginning of her acquaintance with Johnson, and certainly not later than 1766. Her accuracy is therefore completely vindicated. It was probably after one of her Thursday dinners in 1764 that the celebrated 20 scene of the landlady, the sheriff's officer, and the bottle of Madeira, took place.<sup>2</sup>

The very page which contains this monstrous blunder, contains another blunder, if possible, more monstrous still. Sir Joseph Mawbey, a foolish member of Parliament, at whose speeches and whose pigstyes the wits of Brookes's were, fifty years ago, in the habit of laughing most unmercifully, stated, on the authority of Garrick, that Johnson, while sitting in a coffee-house at Oxford, about the time of his doctor's degree, used some contemptuous expressions respecting Home's play and Macpherson's *Ossian*. 30 "Many men," he said, "many women, and many children, might have written Douglas." Mr. Croker conceives that he has detected an inaccuracy, and glories over poor Sir

<sup>1</sup> v. 409.

<sup>2</sup> This paragraph has been altered; and a slight inaccuracy, immaterial to the argument, has been removed.

Joseph in a most characteristic manner. "I have quoted this anecdote solely with the view of showing to how little credit hearsay anecdotes are in general entitled. Here is a story published by Sir Joseph Mawbey, a member of the House of Commons, and a person every way worthy of credit, who says he had it from Garrick. Now mark: Johnson's visit to Oxford, about the time of his doctor's degree, was in 1754, the first time he had been there since he left the university. But Douglas was not acted till 1756, and Ossian not published till 1760. All, therefore, 10 that is new in Sir Joseph Mawbey's story is false."<sup>1</sup> Assuredly we need not go far to find ample proof that a member of the House of Commons may commit a very gross error. Now mark, say we, in the language of Mr. Croker. The fact is, that Johnson took his Master's degree in 1754,<sup>2</sup> and his Doctor's degree in 1775.<sup>3</sup> In the spring of 1776,<sup>4</sup> he paid a visit to Oxford, and at this visit a conversation respecting the works of Home and Macpherson might have taken place, and, in all probability, did take place. The only real objection to the story Mr. 20 Croker has missed. Boswell states, apparently on the best authority, that as early at least as the year 1763, Johnson, in conversation with Blair, used the same expressions respecting Ossian, which Sir Joseph represents him as having used respecting Douglas.<sup>5</sup> Sir Joseph, or Garrick, confounded, we suspect, the two stories. But their error is venial, compared with that of Mr. Croker.

We will not multiply instances of this scandalous inaccuracy. It is clear that a writer who, even when warned by the text on which he is commenting, falls into such 30 mistakes as these, is entitled to no confidence whatever. Mr. Croker has committed an error of five years with respect to the publication of Goldsmith's novel, an error of twelve years with respect to the publication of part of Gibbon's History, an error of twenty-one years with

<sup>1</sup> V. 400.    <sup>2</sup> I. 262.    <sup>3</sup> III. 205.    <sup>4</sup> III. 326.    <sup>5</sup> I. 405.

respect to an event in Johnson's life so important as the taking of the doctoral degree. Two of these three errors he has committed, while ostentatiously displaying his own accuracy, and correcting what he represents as the loose assertions of others. How can his readers take on trust his statements concerning the births, marriages, divorces, and deaths of a crowd of people, whose names are scarcely known to this generation? It is not likely that a person who is ignorant of what almost every body knows can  
 10 know that of which almost every body is ignorant. We did not open this book with any wish to find blemishes in it. We have made no curious researches. The work itself, and a very common knowledge of literary and political history, have enabled us to detect the mistakes which we have pointed out, and many other mistakes of the same kind. We must say, and we say it with regret, that we do not consider the authority of Mr. Croker, unsupported by other evidence, as sufficient to justify any writer who may follow him in relating a single anecdote or in assigning  
 20 a date to a single event.

*Croker* Mr. Croker shows almost as much ignorance and heedlessness in his criticisms as in his statements concerning facts. Dr. Johnson said, very reasonably as it appears to us, that some of the satires of Juvenal are too gross for imitation. Mr. Croker, who, by the way, is angry with Johnson for defending Prior's tales against the charge of indecency, resents this aspersion on Juvenal, and indeed refuses to believe that the doctor can have said anything so absurd. "He probably said—some *passages* of them—  
 30 for there are none of Juvenal's satires to which the same objection may be made as to one of Horace's, that it is *altogether* gross and licentious."<sup>1</sup> Surely Mr. Croker can never have read the second and ninth satires of Juvenal.

Indeed the decisions of this editor on points of classical learning, though pronounced in a very authoritative tone,

are generally such that, if a school-boy under our care were to utter them, our soul assuredly should not spare for his crying. It is no disgrace to a gentleman who has been engaged during near thirty years in political life that he has forgotten his Greek and Latin. But he becomes justly ridiculous if, when no longer able to construe a plain sentence, he affects to sit in judgment on the most delicate questions of style and metre. From one blunder, a blunder which no good scholar would have made, Mr. Croker was saved, as he informs us, by Sir Robert Peel, who quoted 10 a passage exactly in point from Horace. We heartily wish that Sir Robert, whose classical attainments are well known, had been more frequently consulted. Unhappily he was not always at his friend's elbow; and we have therefore a rich abundance of the strangest errors. Boswell has preserved a poor epigram by Johnson, inscribed "Ad Lauram parituram." Mr. Croker censures the poet for applying the word *puella* to a lady in Laura's situation, and for talking of the beauty of Lucina. "Lucina," he says, "was never famed for her beauty."<sup>1</sup> If Sir Robert Peel had seen 20 this note, he probably would have again refuted Mr. Croker's criticisms by an appeal to Horace. In the secular ode, Lucina is used as one of the names of Diana, and the beauty of Diana is extolled by all the most orthodox doctors of the ancient mythology, from Homer in his *Odyssey*, to Claudian in his *Rape of Proserpine*. In another ode, Horace describes Diana as the goddess who assists the "*laborantes utero puellas*." But we are ashamed to detain our readers with this fourth-form learning.

Boswell found, in his tour to the Hebrides, an inscription 30 written by a Scotch minister. It runs thus: "Joannes Macleod, &c., gentis suæ Philarchus, &c., Flora Macdonald matrimoniali vinculo conjugatus turrem hanc Beganodunensem proævorum habitaculum longe vetustissimum, diu penitus labefactatam, anno æræ vulgaris MDCLXXXVI. instauravit."

<sup>1</sup> I. 133.

—"The minister," says Mr. Croker, "seems to have been no contemptible Latinist. Is not Philarchus a very happy term to express the paternal and kindly authority of the head of a clan?"<sup>1</sup> The composition of this eminent Latinist, short as it is, contains several words that are just as much Coptic as Latin, to say nothing of the incorrect structure of the sentence. The word Philarchus, even if it were a happy term expressing a paternal and kindly authority, would prove nothing for the minister's Latin, whatever it might prove  
 10 for his Greek. But it is clear that the word Philarchus means, not a man who rules by love, but a man who loves rule. The Attic writers of the best age use the word *φιλαρχος* in the sense which we assign to it. Would Mr. Croker translate *φιλόσοφος*, a man who acquires wisdom by means of love, or *φιλοκερδής*, a man who makes money by means of love? In fact, it requires no Bentley or Casaubon to perceive, that Philarchus is merely a false spelling for Phylarchus, the chief of a tribe.

Mr. Croker has favoured us with some Greek of his  
 20 own. "At the altar," says Dr. Johnson, "I recommend my  $\theta \phi$ ." "These letters," says the editor, "(which Dr. Strahan seems not to have understood) probably mean *θνητοὶ φίλοι*, departed friends."<sup>2</sup> Johnson was not a first-rate Greek scholar; but he knew more Greek than most boys when they leave school; and no schoolboy could venture to use the word *θνητοὶ* in the sense which Mr. Croker ascribes to it without imminent danger of a flogging.

Mr. Croker has also given us a specimen of his skill in

<sup>1</sup> II. 458.

<sup>2</sup> IV. 251. An attempt was made to vindicate this blunder by quoting a grossly corrupt passage from the *Iκέτιδες* of Euripides:

*βάθι καὶ ἀντίσπον γονάτων, ἐπὶ χεῖρα βαλοῦσα,  
 τέκνων τε θνατῶν κομίσαι δέμας.*

The true reading, as every scholar knows, is, *τέκνων τεθνεώτων κομίσαι δέμας*. Indeed, without this emendation it would not be easy to construe the words, even if *θνατῶν* could bear the meaning which Mr. Croker assigns to it.

translating Latin. Johnson wrote a note in which he consulted his friend, Dr. Lawrence, on the propriety of losing some blood. The note contains these words:—"Si per te licet, imperatur nuncio Holderum ad me deducere." Johnson should rather have written "imperatum est." But the meaning of the words is perfectly clear. "If you say yes, the messenger has orders to bring Holder to me." Mr. Croker translates the words as follows: "If you consent, pray tell the messenger to bring Holder to me."<sup>1</sup> If Mr. Croker is resolved to write on points of classical learning, 10 we would advise him to begin by giving an hour every morning to our old friend Corderius.

Indeed we cannot open any volume of this work in any place, and turn it over for two minutes in any direction, without lighting on a blunder. Johnson, in his Life of Tickell, stated that a poem entitled the Royal Progress, which appears in the last volume of the Spectator, was written on the accession of George I. The word "arrival" was afterwards substituted for "accession." "The reader will observe," says Mr. Croker, "that the Whig term *acces-* 20 *sion*, which might imply legality, was altered into a statement of the simple fact of King George's *arrival*." <sup>2</sup> Now Johnson, though a bigoted Tory, was not quite such a fool as Mr. Croker here represents him to be. In the Life of Granville, Lord Lansdowne, which stands a very few pages from the Life of Tickell, mention is made of the accession of Anne, and of the accession of George I. The word arrival was used in the Life of Tickell for the simplest of all reasons. It was used because the subject of the poem called the Royal Progress was the arrival of the king, and not his 30 accession, which took place near two months before his arrival.

The editor's want of perspicacity is indeed very amusing. He is perpetually telling us that he cannot understand something in the text which is as plain as language can make it.

<sup>1</sup> v. 17.

<sup>2</sup> iv. 425.

"Mattaire," said Dr. Johnson, "wrote Latin verses from time to time, and published a set in his old age, which he called *Senilia*, in which he shows so little learning or taste in writing, as to make Carteret a dactyl."<sup>1</sup> Hereupon we have this note: "The editor does not understand this objection, nor the following observation." The following observation, which Mr. Croker cannot understand, is simply this: "In matters of genealogy," says Johnson, "it is necessary to give the bare names as they are. But in poetry and in  
 10 prose of any elegance in the writing, they require to have inflection given to them." If Mr. Croker had told Johnson that this was unintelligible, the doctor would probably have replied, as he replied on another occasion, "I have found you a reason, sir; I am not bound to find you an understanding." Every body who knows any thing of Latinity knows that, in genealogical tables, Joannes Baro de Carteret, or Vicecomes de Carteret, may be tolerated, but that in compositions which pretend to elegance, Carteretus, or some other form which admits of inflection, ought to be used.  
 20 All our readers have doubtless seen the two distichs of Sir William Jones, respecting the division of the time of a lawyer. One of the distichs is translated from some old Latin lines; the other is original. The former runs thus:

"Six hours to sleep, to law's grave study six,  
 Four spend in prayer, the rest on nature fix."

"Rather," says Sir William Jones,

"Six hours to law, to soothing slumbers seven,  
 Ten to the world allot, and all to heaven."

The second couplet puzzles Mr. Croker strangely. "Sir  
 30 William," says he, "has shortened his day to twenty-three hours, and the general advice of 'all to heaven,' destroys the peculiar appropriation of a certain period to religious exercises."<sup>2</sup> Now, we did not think that it was in human dulness to miss the meaning of the lines so completely.

<sup>1</sup> iv. 335.

<sup>2</sup> v. 233.



Sir William distributes twenty-three hours among various employments. One hour is thus left for devotion. The reader expects that the verse will end with "and one to heaven." The whole point of the lines consists in the unexpected substitution of "all" for "one." The conceit is wretched enough; but it is perfectly intelligible, and never, we will venture to say, perplexed man, woman, or child before.

Poor Tom Davies, after failing in business, tried to live by his pen. Johnson called him "an author generated by 10 the corruption of a bookseller." This is a very obvious, and even a commonplace allusion to the famous dogma of the old physiologists. Dryden made a similar allusion to that dogma before Johnson was born. Mr. Croker, however, is unable to understand what the doctor meant. "The expression," he says, "seems not quite clear." And he proceeds to talk about the generation of insects, about bursting into gaudier life, and Heaven knows what.<sup>1</sup>

There is a still stranger instance of the editor's talent for finding out difficulty in what is perfectly plain. "No 20 man," said Johnson, "can now be made a bishop for his learning and piety." "From this too just observation," says Boswell, "there are some eminent exceptions." Mr. Croker is puzzled by Boswell's very natural and simple language. "That a general observation should be pronounced *too just*, by the very person who admits that it is not universally just, is not a little odd."<sup>2</sup>

A very large proportion of the two thousand five hundred notes which the editor boasts of having added to those of Boswell and Malone consists of the flattest and poorest 30 reflections, reflections such as the least intelligent reader is quite competent to make for himself, and such as no intelligent reader would think it worth while to utter aloud. They remind us of nothing so much as of those profound and interesting annotations which are pencilled

<sup>1</sup> IV. 323.

<sup>2</sup> III. 228.

by sempstresses and apothecaries' boys on the dog-eared margins of novels borrowed from circulating libraries: "How beautiful!" "Cursed prosy!" "I don't like Sir Reginald Malcolm at all." "I think Pelham is a sad dandy." Mr. Croker is perpetually stopping us in our progress through the most delightful narrative in the language, to observe that really Dr. Johnson was very rude, that he talked more for victory than for truth, that his taste for port wine with capillaire in it was very odd, that Boswell 10 was impertinent, that it was foolish in Mrs. Thrale to marry the music-master; and so forth.

We cannot speak more favourably of the manner in which the notes are written than of the matter of which they consist. We find in every page words used in wrong senses, and constructions which violate the plainest rules of grammar. We have the vulgarism of "mutual friend," for "common friend." We have "fallacy" used as synonymous with "falsehood." We have many such inextricable labyrinths of pronouns as that which follows: "Lord 20 Erskine was fond of this anecdote; he told it to the editor the first time that he had the honour of being in his company." Lastly, we have a plentiful supply of sentences resembling those which we subjoin. "Markland, *who*, with Jortin and Thirlby, Johnson calls three contemporaries of great eminence."<sup>1</sup> "Warburton himself did not feel, as Mr. Boswell was disposed to think he did, kindly or gratefully of Johnson."<sup>2</sup> "It was *him* that Horace Walpole called a man who never made a bad figure but as an author."<sup>3</sup> One or two of these solecisms should perhaps be attributed 30 to the printer, who has certainly done his best to fill both the text and the notes with all sorts of blunders. In truth, he and the editor have between them made the book so bad, that we do not well see how it could have been worse.

When we turn from the commentary of Mr. Croker to

<sup>1</sup> iv. 377.

<sup>2</sup> iv. 415.

<sup>3</sup> ii. 461.

the work of our old friend Boswell, we find it not only worse printed than in any other edition with which we are acquainted, but mangled in the most wanton manner. Much that Boswell inserted in his narrative is, without the shadow of a reason, degraded to the appendix. The editor has also taken upon himself to alter or omit passages which he considers as indecorous. This prudery is quite unintelligible to us. There is nothing immoral in Boswell's book, nothing which tends to inflame the passions. He sometimes uses plain words. But if this be a taint which 10 requires expurgation, it would be desirable to begin by expurgating the morning and evening lessons. The delicate office which Mr. Croker has undertaken he has performed in the most capricious manner. One strong, old-fashioned, English word, familiar to all who read their Bibles, is changed for a softer synonyme in some passages, and suffered to stand unaltered in others. In one place a faint allusion made by Johnson to an indelicate subject, an allusion so faint that, till Mr. Croker's note pointed it out to us, we had never noticed it, and of which we are quite 20 sure that the meaning would never be discovered by any of those for whose sake books are expurgated, is altogether omitted. In another place, a coarse and stupid jest of Dr. Taylor on the same subject, expressed in the broadest language, almost the only passage, as far as we remember, in all Boswell's book, which we should have been inclined to leave out, is suffered to remain.

We complain, however, much more of the additions than of the omissions. We have half of Mrs. Thrale's book, scraps of Mr. Tyers, scraps of Mr. Murphy, scraps of Mr. 30 Cradock, long prosings of Sir John Hawkins, and connecting observations by Mr. Croker himself, inserted into the midst of Boswell's text. To this practice we most decidedly object. An editor might as well publish Thucydides with extracts from Diodorus interspersed, or incorporate the Lives of Suetonius with the History and Annals of Tacitus.

Mr. Croker tells us, indeed, that he has done only what Boswell wished to do, and was prevented from doing by the law of copyright. We doubt this greatly. Boswell has studiously abstained from availing himself of the information given by his rivals, on many occasions on which he might have cited them without subjecting himself to the charge of piracy. Mr. Croker has himself, on one occasion, remarked very justly that Boswell was unwilling to owe any obligation to Hawkins. But, be this as it may, if

10 Boswell had quoted from Sir John and from Mrs. Thrale, he would have been guided by his own taste and judgment in selecting his quotations. On what Boswell quoted he would have commented with perfect freedom; and the borrowed passages, so selected, and accompanied by such comments, would have become original. They would have dovetailed into the work. No hitch, no crease, would have been discernible. The whole would appear one and indivisible,

"Ut per læve severos

20

Effundat junctura ungues."

This is not the case with Mr. Croker's insertions. They are not chosen as Boswell would have chosen them. They are not introduced as Boswell would have introduced them. They differ from the quotations scattered through the original Life of Johnson, as a withered bough stuck in the ground differs from a tree skilfully transplanted with all its life about it.

Not only do these anecdotes disfigure Boswell's book; they are themselves disfigured by being inserted in his

30 book. The charm of Mrs. Thrale's little volume is utterly destroyed. The feminine quickness of observation, the feminine softness of heart, the colloquial incorrectness and vivacity of style, the little amusing airs of a half-learned lady, the delightful garrulity, the "dear Doctor Johnson," the "it was so comical," all disappear in Mr. Croker's quotations. The lady ceases to speak in the first person;

and her anecdotes, in the process of transfusion, become as flat as Champagne in decanters, or Herodotus in Beloe's version. Sir John Hawkins, it is true, loses nothing; and for the best of reasons. Sir John had nothing to lose.

The course which Mr. Croker ought to have taken is quite clear. He should have reprinted Boswell's narrative precisely as Boswell wrote it; and in the notes or the appendix he should have placed any anecdotes which he might have thought it advisable to quote from other writers. This would have been a much more convenient course for 10 the reader, who has now constantly to keep his eye on the margin in order to see whether he is perusing Boswell, Mrs. Thrale, Murphy, Hawkins, Tyers, Cradock, or Mr. Croker. We greatly doubt whether even the Tour to the Hebrides ought to have been inserted in the midst of the Life. There is one marked distinction between the two works. Most of the Tour was seen by Johnson in manuscript. It does not appear that he ever saw any part of the Life.

We love, we own, to read the great productions of the 20 human mind as they were written. We have this feeling even about scientific treatises; though we know that the sciences are always in a state of progression, and that the alterations made by a modern editor in an old book on any branch of natural or political philosophy are likely to be improvements. Some errors have been detected by writers of this generation in the speculations of Adam Smith. A short cut has been made to much knowledge at which Sir Isaac Newton arrived through arduous and circuitous paths. Yet we still look with peculiar veneration on the Wealth 30 of Nations and on the Principia, and should regret to see either of those great works garbled even by the ablest hands. But in works which owe much of their interest to the character and situation of the writers the case is infinitely stronger. What man of taste and feeling can endure *rifacimenti*, harmonies, abridgments, expurgated

editions? Who ever reads a stage-copy of a play when he can procure the original? Who ever cut open Mrs. Siddons's Milton? Who ever got through ten pages of Mr. Gilpin's translation of John Bunyan's Pilgrim into modern English? Who would lose, in the confusion of a Diatessaron, the peculiar charm which belongs to the narrative of the disciple whom Jesus loved? The feeling of a reader who has become intimate with any great original work is that which Adam expressed towards his bride:

- 10                   "Should God create another Eve, and I  
                       Another rib afford, yet loss of thee  
                       Would never from my heart."

No substitute, however exquisitely formed, will fill the void left by the original. The second beauty may be equal or superior to the first; but still it is not she.

- The reasons which Mr. Croker has given for incorporating passages from Sir John Hawkins and Mrs. Thrale with the narrative of Boswell would vindicate the adulteration of half the classical works in the language. If Pepys's Diary  
 20 and Mrs. Hutchinson's Memoirs had been published a hundred years ago, no human being can doubt that Mr. Hume would have made great use of those books in his History of England. But would it, on that account, be judicious in a writer of our own times to publish an edition of Hume's History of England, in which large extracts from Pepys and Mrs. Hutchinson should be incorporated with the original text? Surely not. Hume's history, be its faults what they may, is now one great entire work, the production of one vigorous mind, working on such  
 30 materials as were within its reach. Additions made by another hand may supply a particular deficiency, but would grievously injure the general effect. With Boswell's book the case is stronger. There is scarcely, in the whole compass of literature, a book which bears interpolation so ill. We know no production of the human mind which has so

much of what may be called the race, so much of the peculiar flavour of the soil from which it sprang. The work could never have been written if the writer had not been precisely what he was. His character is displayed in every page, and this display of character gives a delightful interest to many passages which have no other interest.

The Life of Johnson is assuredly a great, a very great work. Homer is not more decidedly the first of heroic poets, Shakspeare is not more decidedly the first of dramatists, Demosthenes is not more decidedly the first of orators, 10 than Boswell is the first of biographers. He has no second. He has distanced all his competitors so decidedly that it is not worth while to place them. Eclipse is first, and the rest nowhere.

We are not sure that there is in the whole history of the human intellect so strange a phænomenon as this book. Many of the greatest men that ever lived have written biography. Boswell was one of the smallest men that ever lived, and he has beaten them all. He was, if we are to give any credit to his own account or to the united testi- 20 mony of all who knew him, a man of the meanest and feeblest intellect. Johnson described him as a fellow who had missed his only chance of immortality by not having been alive when the Dunciad was written. Beauclerk used his name as a proverbial expression for a bore. He was the laughing-stock of the whole of that brilliant society which has owed to him the greater part of its fame. He was always laying himself at the feet of some eminent man, and begging to be spit upon and trampled upon. He was always earning some ridiculous nickname, and then "binding 30 it as a crown unto him," not merely in metaphor, but literally. He exhibited himself, at the Shakspeare Jubilee, to all the crowd which filled Stratford-on-Avon, with a placard round his hat bearing the inscription of Corsica Boswell. In his Tour, he proclaimed to all the world that at Edinburgh he was known by the appellation of Paoli Boswell.

Servile and impertinent, shallow and pedantic, a bigot and a sot, bloated with family pride, and eternally blustering about the dignity of a born gentleman, yet stooping to be a talebearer, an eavesdropper, a common butt in the taverns of London, so curious to know every body who was talked about, that, Tory and high Churchman as he was, he manœuvred, we have been told, for an introduction to Tom Paine, so vain of the most childish distinctions, that when he had been to court, he drove to the office where his book

10 was printing without changing his clothes, and summoned all the printer's devils to admire his new ruffles and sword ; such was this man, and such he was content and proud to be. Every thing which another man would have hidden, every thing the publication of which would have made another man hang himself, was matter of gay and clamorous exultation to his weak and diseased mind. What silly things he said, what bitter retorts he provoked, how at one place he was troubled with evil presentiments which came to nothing, how at another place, on waking from a

20 drunken doze, he read the prayer-book and took a hair of the dog that had bitten him, how he went to see men hanged and came away maudlin, how he added five hundred pounds to the fortune of one of his babies because she was not scared at Johnson's ugly face, how he was frightened out of his wits at sea, and how the sailors quieted him as they would have quieted a child, how tipsy he was at Lady Cork's one evening and how much his merriment annoyed the ladies, how impertinent he was to the Duchess of Argyle and with what stately contempt she put down

30 his impertinence, how Colonel Macleod sneered to his face at his impudent obtrusiveness, how his father and the very wife of his bosom laughed and fretted at his fooleries ; all these things he proclaimed to all the world, as if they had been subjects for pride and ostentatious rejoicing. All the caprices of his temper, all the illusions of his vanity, all his hypochondriac whimsies, all his castles in the air, he



displayed with a cool self-complacency, a perfect unconsciousness that he was making a fool of himself, to which it is impossible to find a parallel in the whole history of mankind. He has used many people ill; but assuredly he has used nobody so ill as himself.

That such a man should have written one of the best books in the world is strange enough. But this is not all. Many persons who have conducted themselves foolishly in active life, and whose conversation has indicated no superior powers of mind, have left us valuable works. Goldsmith 10 was very justly described by one of his contemporaries as an inspired idiot, and by another as a being

“Who wrote like an angel, and talked like poor Poll.”

La Fontaine was in society a mere simpleton. His blunders would not come in amiss among the stories of Hierocles. But these men attained literary eminence in spite of their weaknesses. Boswell attained it by reason of his weaknesses. If he had not been a great fool, he would never have been a great writer. Without all the qualities which made him the jest and the torment of those among whom 20 he lived, without the officiousness, the inquisitiveness, the effrontery, the toad-eating, the insensibility to all reproof, he never could have produced so excellent a book. He was a slave proud of his servitude, a Paul Pry, convinced that his own curiosity and garrulity were virtues, an unsafe companion who never scrupled to repay the most liberal hospitality by the basest violation of confidence, a man without delicacy, without shame, without sense enough to know when he was hurting the feelings of others or when he was exposing himself to derision; and because he was all 30 this, he has, in an important department of literature, immeasurably surpassed such writers as Tacitus, Clarendon, Alfieri, and his own idol Johnson.

Of the talents which ordinarily raise men to eminence as writers, Boswell had absolutely none. There is not in

all his books a single remark of his own on literature, politics, religion, or society, which is not either common-place or absurd. His dissertations on hereditary gentility, on the slave-trade, and on the entailing of landed estates, may serve as examples. To say that these passages are sophistical would be to pay them an extravagant compliment. They have no pretence to argument, or even to meaning. He has reported innumerable observations made by himself in the course of conversation. Of those ob-  
 10 servations we do not remember one which is above the intellectual capacity of a boy of fifteen. He has printed many of his own letters, and in these letters he is always ranting or twaddling. Logic, eloquence, wit, taste, all those things which are generally considered as making a book valuable, were utterly wanting to him. He had, indeed, a quick observation and a retentive memory. These qualities, if he had been a man of sense and virtue, would scarcely of themselves have sufficed to make him con-  
 20 spicuous; but because he was a dunce, a parasite, and a coxcomb, they have made him immortal.

Those parts of his book which, considered abstractedly, are most utterly worthless, are delightful when we read them as illustrations of the character of the writer. Bad in themselves, they are good dramatically, like the nonsense of Justice Shallow, the clipped English of Dr. Caius, or the misplaced consonants of Fluellen. Of all confessors, Boswell is the most candid. Other men who have pretended to lay open their own hearts, Rousseau, for example, and Lord Byron, have evidently written with a constant  
 30 view to effect, and are to be then most distrusted when they seem to be most sincere. There is scarcely any man who would not rather accuse himself of great crimes and of dark and tempestuous passions than proclaim all his little vanities and wild fancies. It would be easier to find a person who would avow actions like those of Cæsar Borgia or Danton, than one who would publish a day-

dream like those of Alnaschar and Malvolio. Those weaknesses which most men keep covered up in the most secret places of the mind, not to be disclosed to the eye of friendship or of love, were precisely the weaknesses which Boswell paraded before all the world. He was perfectly frank, because the weakness of his understanding and the tumult of his spirits prevented him from knowing when he made himself ridiculous. His book resembles nothing so much as the conversation of the inmates of the Palace of Truth.

10

His fame is great; and it will, we have no doubt, be lasting; but it is fame of a peculiar kind, and indeed marvellously resembles infamy. We remember no other case in which the world has made so great a distinction between a book and its author. In general, the book and the author are considered as one. To admire the book is to admire the author. The case of Boswell is an exception, we think the only exception, to this rule. His work is universally allowed to be interesting, instructive, eminently original: yet it has brought him nothing but contempt. 20 All the world reads it: all the world delights in it: yet we do not remember ever to have read or ever to have heard any expression of respect and admiration for the man to whom we owe so much instruction and amusement. While edition after edition of his book was coming forth, his son, as Mr. Croker tells us, was ashamed of it, and hated to hear it mentioned. This feeling was natural and reasonable. Sir Alexander saw that, in proportion to the celebrity of the work, was the degradation of the author. The very editors of this unfortunate gentleman's books 30 have forgotten their allegiance, and, like those Puritan casuists who took arms by the authority of the king against his person, have attacked the writer while doing homage to the writings. Mr. Croker, for example, has published two thousand five hundred notes on the life of Johnson, and yet scarcely ever mentions the biographer

whose performance he has taken such pains to illustrate without some expression of contempt.

An ill-natured man Boswell certainly was not. Yet the malignity of the most malignant satirist could scarcely cut deeper than his thoughtless loquacity. Having himself no sensibility to derision and contempt, he took it for granted that all others were equally callous. He was not ashamed to exhibit himself to the whole world as a common spy, a common tattler, a humble companion without the  
 10 excuse of poverty, and to tell a hundred stories of his own pertness and folly, and of the insults which his pertness and folly brought upon him. It was natural that he should show little discretion in cases in which the feelings or the honour of others might be concerned. No man, surely, ever published such stories respecting persons whom he professed to love and revere. He would infallibly have made his hero as contemptible as he has made himself, had not his hero really possessed some moral and intellectual qualities of a very high order. The best proof that  
 20 Johnson was really an extraordinary man is that his character, instead of being degraded, has, on the whole, been decidedly raised by a work in which all his vices and weaknesses are exposed more unsparingly than they ever were exposed by Churchill or by Kenrick.

Johnson grown old, Johnson in the fulness of his fame and in the enjoyment of a competent fortune, is better known to us than any other man in history. Every thing about him, his coat, his wig, his figure, his face, his scrofula, his St. Vitus's dance, his rolling walk, his blinking  
 30 eye, the outward signs which too clearly marked his approbation of his dinner, his insatiable appetite for fish-sauce and veal-pie with plums, his inextinguishable thirst for tea, his trick of touching the posts as he walked, his mysterious practice of treasuring up scraps of orange-peel, his morning slumbers, his midnight disputations, his contortions, his mutterings, his gruntings, his puffings, his

vigorous, acute, and ready eloquence, his sarcastic wit, his vehemence, his insolence, his fits of tempestuous rage, his queer inmates, old Mr. Levett and blind Mrs. Williams, the cat Hodge and the negro Frank, all are as familiar to us as the objects by which we have been surrounded from childhood. But we have no minute information respecting those years of Johnson's life during which his character and his manners became immutably fixed. We know him, not as he was known to the men of his own generation, but as he was known to men whose father he might have been. 10 That celebrated club of which he was the most distinguished member contained few persons who could remember a time when his fame was not fully established and his habits completely formed. He had made himself a name in literature while Reynolds and the Wartons were still boys. He was about twenty years older than Burke, Goldsmith, and Gerard Hamilton, about thirty years older than Gibbon, Beauclerk, and Langton, and about forty years older than Lord Stowell, Sir William Jones, and Windham. Boswell and Mrs. Thrale, the two writers from whom we 20 derive most of our knowledge respecting him, never saw him till long after he was fifty years old, till most of his great works had become classical, and till the pension bestowed on him by the Crown had placed him above poverty. Of those eminent men who were his most intimate associates towards the close of his life, the only one, as far as we remember, who knew him during the first ten or twelve years of his residence in the capital, was David Garrick; and it does not appear that, during those years, David Garrick saw much of his fellow-townsmen. 30

Johnson came up to London precisely at the time when the condition of a man of letters was most miserable and degraded. It was a dark night between two sunny days. The age of patronage had passed away. The age of general curiosity and intelligence had not arrived. The number of readers is at present so great that a popular author may

subsidist in comfort and opulence on the profits of his works. In the reigns of William the Third, of Anne, and of George the First, even such men as Congreve and Addison would scarcely have been able to live like gentlemen by the mere sale of their writings. But the deficiency of the natural demand for literature was, at the close of the seventeenth and at the beginning of the eighteenth century, more than made up by artificial encouragement, by a vast system of bounties and premiums. There was, perhaps, never a time

10 at which the rewards of literary merit were so splendid, at which men who could write well found such easy admittance into the most distinguished society, and to the highest honours of the state. The chiefs of both the great parties into which the kingdom was divided patronized literature with emulous munificence. Congreve, when he had scarcely attained his majority, was rewarded for his first comedy with places which made him independent for life. Smith, though his *Hippolytus* and *Phædra* failed, would have been consoled with three hundred a year but

20 for his own folly. Rowe was not only Poet Laureate, but also land-surveyor of the customs in the port of London, clerk of the council to the Prince of Wales, and secretary of the Presentations to the Lord Chancellor. Hughes was secretary to the Commissions of the Peace. Ambrose Philips was judge of the Prerogative Court in Ireland. Locke was Commissioner of Appeals and of the Board of Trade. Newton was Master of the Mint. Stepney and Prior were employed in embassies of high dignity and importance. Gay, who commenced life as apprentice to a

30 silk mercer, became a secretary of Legation at five-and-twenty. It was to a poem on the Death of Charles the Second, and to the *City and Country Mouse*, that Montague owed his introduction into public life, his earldom, his garter, and his Auditorship of the Exchequer. Swift, but for the unconquerable prejudice of the queen, would have been a bishop. Oxford, with his white staff in his hand,

passed through the crowd of his suitors to welcome Parnell, when that ingenious writer deserted the Whigs. Steele was a commissioner of stamps and a member of Parliament. Arthur Mainwaring was a commissioner of the customs, and auditor of the imprest. Tickell was secretary to the Lords Justices of Ireland. Addison was secretary of state.

This liberal patronage was brought into fashion, as it seems, by the magnificent Dorset, almost the only noble versifier in the court of Charles the Second who possessed talents for composition which were independent of the aid 10 of a coronet. Montague owed his elevation to the favour of Dorset, and imitated through the whole course of his life the liberality to which he was himself so greatly indebted. The Tory leaders, Harley and Bolingbroke in particular, vied with the chiefs of the Whig party in zeal for the encouragement of letters. But soon after the accession of the house of Hanover a change took place. The supreme power passed to a man who cared little for poetry or eloquence. The importance of the House of Commons was constantly on the increase. The government 20 was under the necessity of bartering for Parliamentary support much of that patronage which had been employed in fostering literary merit; and Walpole was by no means inclined to divert any part of the fund of corruption to purposes which he considered as idle. He had eminent talents for government and for debate. But he had paid little attention to books, and felt little respect for authors. One of the coarse jokes of his friend, Sir Charles Hanbury Williams, was far more pleasing to him than Thomson's Seasons or Richardson's Pamela. He had observed that 30 some of the distinguished writers whom the favour of Halifax had turned into statesmen had been mere encumbrances to their party, dawdlers in office and mutes in Parliament. During the whole course of his administration, therefore, he scarcely befriended a single man of genius. The best writers of the age gave all their support to the

opposition, and contributed to excite that discontent which, after plunging the nation into a foolish and unjust war, overthrew the minister to make room for men less able and equally immoral. The opposition could reward its eulogists with little more than promises and caresses. St. James's would give nothing: Leicester house had nothing to give.

Thus, at the time when Johnson commenced his literary career, a writer had little to hope from the patronage of powerful individuals. The patronage of the public did not  
 10 yet furnish the means of comfortable subsistence. The prices paid by booksellers to authors were so low that a man of considerable talents and unremitting industry could do little more than provide for the day which was passing over him. The lean kine had eaten up the fat kine. The thin and withered ears had devoured the good ears. The season of rich harvests was over, and the period of famine had begun. All that is squalid and miserable might now be summed up in the word Poet. That word denoted a creature dressed like a scarecrow, familiar with compters  
 20 and spunging-houses, and perfectly qualified to decide on the comparative merits of the Common Side in the King's Bench prison and of Mount Scoundrel in the Fleet. Even the poorest pitied him; and they well might pity him. For if their condition was equally abject, their aspirings were not equally high, nor their sense of insult equally acute. To lodge in a garret up four pair of stairs, to dine in a cellar among footmen out of place, to translate ten hours a day for the wages of a ditcher, to be hunted by bailiffs from one haunt of beggary and pestilence to another, from  
 30 Grub Street to St. George's Fields, and from St. George's Fields to the alleys behind St. Martin's church, to sleep on a bulk in June and amidst the ashes of a glass-house in December, to die in an hospital and to be buried in a parish vault, was the fate of more than one writer who, if he had lived thirty years earlier, would have been admitted to the sittings of the Kitcat or the Scriblerus club, would



have sat in Parliament, and would have been entrusted with embassies to the High Allies ; who, if he had lived in our time, would have found encouragement scarcely less munificent in Albemarle Street or in Paternoster Row.

As every climate has its peculiar diseases, so every walk of life has its peculiar temptations. The literary character, assuredly, has always had its share of faults, vanity, jealousy, morbid sensibility. To these faults were now superadded the faults which are commonly found in men whose livelihood is precarious, and whose principles 10 are exposed to the trial of severe distress. All the vices of the gambler and of the beggar were blended with those of the author. The prizes in the wretched lottery of book-making were scarcely less ruinous than the blanks. If good fortune came, it came in such a manner that it was almost certain to be abused. After months of starvation and despair, a full third night or a well-received dedication filled the pocket of the lean, ragged, unwashed poet with guineas. He hastened to enjoy those luxuries with the images of which his mind had been haunted while he 20 was sleeping amidst the cinders and eating potatoes at the Irish ordinary in Shoe Lane. A week of taverns soon qualified him for another year of night-cellar. Such was the life of Savage, of Boyse, and of a crowd of others. Sometimes blazing in gold-laced hats and waistcoats ; sometimes lying in bed because their coats had gone to pieces, or wearing paper cravats because their linen was in pawn ; sometimes drinking Champagne and Tokay with Betty Careless ; sometimes standing at the window of an eating-house in Porridge island, to snuff up the scent of what 30 they could not afford to taste ; they knew luxury ; they knew beggary ; but they never knew comfort. These men were irreclaimable. They looked on a regular and frugal life with the same aversion which an old gipsy or a Mohawk hunter feels for a stationary abode, and for the restraints and securities of civilized communities. They were as

untameable, as much wedded to their desolate freedom, as the wild ass. They could no more be broken in to the offices of social man than the unicorn could be trained to serve and abide by the crib. It was well if they did not, like beasts of a still fiercer race, tear the hands which ministered to their necessities. To assist them was impossible; and the most benevolent of mankind at length became weary of giving relief which was dissipated with the wildest profusion as soon as it had been received. If  
 10 a sum was bestowed on the wretched adventurer, such as, properly husbanded, might have supplied him for six months, it was instantly spent in strange freaks of sensuality, and, before forty-eight hours had elapsed, the poet was again pestering all his acquaintance for twopence to get a plate of shin of beef at a subterraneous cook-shop. If his friends gave him an asylum in their houses, those houses were forthwith turned into bagnios and taverns. All order was destroyed; all business was suspended. The most good-natured host began to repent of his eager-  
 20 ness to serve a man of genius in distress when he heard his guest roaring for fresh punch at five o'clock in the morning.

A few eminent writers were more fortunate. Pope had been raised above poverty by the active patronage which, in his youth, both the great political parties had extended to his Homer. Young had received the only pension ever bestowed, to the best of our recollection, by Sir Robert Walpole, as the reward of mere literary merit. One or two of the many poets who attached themselves to the oppo-  
 30 sition, Thomson in particular and Mallet, obtained, after much severe suffering, the means of subsistence from their political friends. Richardson, like a man of sense, kept his shop; and his shop kept him, which his novels, admirable as they are, would scarcely have done. But nothing could be more deplorable than the state even of the ablest men, who at that time depended for subsistence on their writ-

ings. Johnson, Collins, Fielding, and Thomson, were certainly four of the most distinguished persons that England produced during the eighteenth century. It is well known that they were all four arrested for debt.

Into calamities and difficulties such as these Johnson plunged in his twenty-eighth year. From that time till he was three or four and fifty, we have little information respecting him; little, we mean, compared with the full and accurate information which we possess respecting his proceedings and habits towards the close of his life. He 10 emerged at length from cocklofts and sixpenny ordinaries into the society of the polished and the opulent. His fame was established. A pension sufficient for his wants had been conferred on him: and he came forth to astonish a generation with which he had almost as little in common as with Frenchmen or Spaniards.

In his early years he had occasionally seen the great; but he had seen them as a beggar. He now came among them as a companion. The demand for amusement and instruction had, during the course of twenty years, been 20 gradually increasing. The price of literary labour had risen; and those rising men of letters with whom Johnson was henceforth to associate were for the most part persons widely different from those who had walked about with him all night in the streets for want of a lodging. Burke, Robertson, the Wartons, Gray, Mason, Gibbon, Adam Smith, Beattie, Sir William Jones, Goldsmith, and Churchill, were the most distinguished writers of what may be called the second generation of the Johnsonian age. Of these men Churchill was the only one in whom we can trace the stronger 30 lineaments of that character which, when Johnson first came up to London, was common among authors. Of the rest, scarcely any had felt the pressure of severe poverty. Almost all had been early admitted into the most respectable society on an equal footing. They were men of quite a different species from the dependents of Curll and Osborne.

Johnson came among them the solitary specimen of a past age, the last survivor of the genuine race of Grub Street hacks ; the last of that generation of authors whose abject misery and whose dissolute manners had furnished inexhaustible matter to the satirical genius of Pope. From nature, he had received an uncouth figure, a diseased constitution, and an irritable temper. The manner in which the earlier years of his manhood had been passed had given to his demeanour, and even to his moral character, some peculiarities appalling to the civilized beings who were the companions of his old age. The perverse irregularity of his hours, the slovenliness of his person, his fits of strenuous exertion, interrupted by long intervals of sluggishness, his strange abstinence, and his equally strange voracity, his active benevolence, contrasted with the constant rudeness and the occasional ferocity of his manners in society, made him, in the opinion of those with whom he lived during the last twenty years of his life, a complete original. An original he was, undoubtedly, in some respects. But if we possessed full information concerning those who shared his early hardships, we should probably find that what we call his singularities of manner were, for the most part, failings which he had in common with the class to which he belonged. He ate at Streatham Park as he had been used to eat behind the screen at St. John's Gate, when he was ashamed to show his ragged clothes. He ate as it was natural that a man should eat, who, during a great part of his life, had passed the morning in doubt whether he should have food for the afternoon. The habits of his early life had accustomed him to bear privation with fortitude, but not to taste pleasure with moderation. He could fast ; but when he did not fast, he tore his dinner like a famished wolf, with the veins swelling on his forehead, and the perspiration running down his cheeks. He scarcely ever took wine ; but when he drank it, he drank it greedily and in large tumblers. These were, in fact,

mitigated symptoms of that same moral disease which raged with such deadly malignity in his friends Savage and Boyse. The roughness and violence which he showed in society were to be expected from a man whose temper, not naturally gentle, had been long tried by the bitterest calamities, by the want of meat, of fire, and of clothes, by the importunity of creditors, by the insolence of book-sellers, by the derision of fools, by the insincerity of patrons, by that bread which is the bitterest of all food, by those stairs which are the most toilsome of all paths, by that 10 deferred hope which makes the heart sick. Through all these things the ill-dressed, coarse, ungainly pedant had struggled manfully up to eminence and command. It was natural that, in the exercise of his power, he should be "eo imitior, quia toleraverat," that, though his heart was undoubtedly generous and humane, his demeanour in society should be harsh and despotic. For severe distress he had sympathy, and not only sympathy, but munificent relief. But for the suffering which a harsh word inflicts upon a delicate mind he had no pity; for it was a kind of suffer- 20 ing which he could scarcely conceive. He would carry home on his shoulders a sick and starving girl from the streets. He turned his house into a place of refuge for a crowd of wretched old creatures who could find no other asylum; nor could all their peevishness and ingratitude weary out his benevolence. But the pangs of wounded vanity seemed to him ridiculous; and he scarcely felt sufficient compassion even for the pangs of wounded affection. He had seen and felt so much of sharp misery, that he was not affected by paltry vexations; and he seemed 30 to think that everybody ought to be as much hardened to those vexations as himself. He was angry with Boswell for complaining of a headache, with Mrs. Thrale for grumbling about the dust on the road, or the smell of the kitchen. These were, in his phrase, "foppish lamentations," which people ought to be ashamed to utter in a

world so full of sin and sorrow. Goldsmith crying because the Good-natured Man had failed, inspired him with no pity. Though his own health was not good, he detested and despised valetudinarians. Pecuniary losses, unless they reduced the loser absolutely to beggary, moved him very little. People whose hearts had been softened by prosperity might weep, he said, for such events; but all that could be expected of a plain man was not to laugh. He was not much moved even by the spectacle of Lady 10 Tavistock dying of a broken heart for the loss of her lord. Such grief he considered as a luxury reserved for the idle and the wealthy. A washerwoman, left a widow with nine small children, would not have sobbed herself to death.

A person who troubled himself so little about small or sentimental grievances was not likely to be very attentive to the feelings of others in the ordinary intercourse of society. He could not understand how a sarcasm or a reprimand could make any man really unhappy. "My 20 dear doctor," said he to Goldsmith, "what harm does it do to a man to call him Holofernes?" "Pooh, ma'am," he exclaimed to Mrs. Carter, "who is the worse for being talked of uncharitably?" Politeness has been well defined as benevolence in small things. Johnson was impolite, not because he wanted benevolence, but because small things appeared smaller to him than to people who had never known what it was to live for fourpence halfpenny a day.

The characteristic peculiarity of his intellect was the union of great powers with low prejudices. If we judged 30 of him by the best parts of his mind, we should place him almost as high as he was placed by the idolatry of Boswell; if by the worst parts of his mind, we should place him even below Boswell himself. Where he was not under the influence of some strange scruple, or some domineering passion, which prevented him from boldly and fairly investigating a subject, he was a wary and acute

reasoner, a little too much inclined to scepticism, and a little too fond of paradox. No man was less likely to be imposed upon by fallacies in argument or by exaggerated statements of fact. But if, while he was beating down sophisms and exposing false testimony, some childish prejudices, such as would excite laughter in a well-managed nursery, came across him, he was smitten as if by enchantment. His mind dwindled away under the spell from gigantic elevation to dwarfish littleness. Those who had lately been admiring its amplitude and its force were now 10 as much astonished at its strange narrowness and feebleness as the fisherman in the Arabian tale, when he saw the Genie, whose stature had overshadowed the whole sea-coast, and whose might seemed equal to a contest with armies, contract himself to the dimensions of his small prison, and lie there the helpless slave of the charm of Solomon.

Johnson was in the habit of sifting with extreme severity the evidence for all stories which were merely odd. But when they were not only odd but miraculous, his severity relaxed. He began to be credulous precisely at the point 20 where the most credulous people begin to be sceptical. It is curious to observe, both in his writings and in his conversation, the contrast between the disdainful manner in which he rejects unauthenticated anecdotes, even when they are consistent with the general laws of nature, and the respectful manner in which he mentions the wildest stories relating to the invisible world. A man who told him of a water-spout or a meteoric stone generally had the lie direct given him for his pains. A man who told him of a prediction or a dream wonderfully accomplished was 30 sure of a courteous hearing. "Johnson," observed Hogarth, "like King David, says in his haste that all men are liars." "His incredulity," says Mrs. Thrale, "amounted almost to disease." She tells us how he browbeat a gentleman, who gave him an account of a hurricane in the West Indies, and a poor quaker who related some strange cir-

cumstance about the red-hot balls fired at the siege of Gibraltar. "It is not so. It cannot be true. Don't tell that story again. You cannot think how poor a figure you make in telling it." He once said, half jestingly we suppose, that for six months he refused to credit the fact of the earthquake at Lisbon, and that he still believed the extent of the calamity to be greatly exaggerated. Yet he related with a grave face how old Mr. Cave of St. John's Gate saw a ghost, and how this ghost was some-  
 10 thing of a shadowy being. He went himself on a ghost-hunt to Cock Lane, and was angry with John Wesley for not following up another scent of the same kind with proper spirit and perseverance. He rejects the Celtic genealogies and poems without the least hesitation; yet he declares himself willing to believe the stories of the second sight. If he had examined the claims of the Highland seers with half the severity with which he sifted the evidence for the genuineness of Fingal, he would, we suspect, have come away from Scotland with a mind fully  
 20 made up. In his Lives of the Poets, we find that he is unwilling to give credit to the accounts of Lord Roscommon's early proficiency in his studies; but he tells with great solemnity an absurd romance about some intelligence preternaturally impressed on the mind of that nobleman. He avows himself to be in great doubt about the truth of the story, and ends by warning his readers not wholly to slight such impressions.

Many of his sentiments on religious subjects are worthy of a liberal and enlarged mind. He could discern clearly  
 30 enough the folly and meanness of all bigotry except his own. When he spoke of the scruples of the Puritans, he spoke like a person who had really obtained an insight into the divine philosophy of the New Testament, and who considered Christianity as a noble scheme of government, tending to promote the happiness and to elevate the moral nature of man. The horror which the sectaries felt for



cards, Christmas ale, plum-porridge, mince-pies, and dancing bears, excited his contempt. To the arguments urged by some very worthy people against showy dress he replied with admirable sense and spirit, "Let us not be found, when our Master calls us, stripping the lace off our waistcoats, but the spirit of contention from our souls and tongues. Alas! sir, a man who cannot get to heaven in a green coat will not find his way thither the sooner in a grey one." Yet he was himself under the tyranny of scruples as unreasonable as those of Hudibras or Ralpho, and carried his zeal for ceremonies and for ecclesiastical dignities to lengths altogether inconsistent with reason or with Christian charity. He has gravely noted down in his diary that he once committed the sin of drinking coffee on Good Friday. In Scotland, he thought it his duty to pass several months without joining in public worship solely because the ministers of the kirk had not been ordained by bishops. His mode of estimating the piety of his neighbours was somewhat singular. "Campbell," said he, "is a good man, a pious man. I am afraid he has not been in the inside of a church for many years; but he never passes a church without pulling off his hat: this shows he has good principles." Spain and Sicily must surely contain many pious robbers and well-principled assassins. Johnson could easily see that a Roundhead who named all his children after Solomon's singers, and talked in the House of Commons about seeking the Lord, might be an unprincipled villain, whose religious mummeries only aggravated his guilt. But a man who took off his hat when he passed a church episcopally consecrated must be a good man, a pious man, a man of good principles. Johnson could easily see that those persons who looked on a dance or a laced waistcoat as sinful, deemed most ignobly of the attributes of God and of the ends of revelation. But with what a storm of invective he would have overwhelmed any man who had blamed him for celebrating

the redemption of mankind with sugarless tea and butterless buns!

Nobody spoke more contemptuously of the cant of patriotism. Nobody saw more clearly the error of those who regarded liberty not as a means, but as an end, and who proposed to themselves, as the object of their pursuit, the prosperity of the state as distinct from the prosperity of the individuals who compose the state. His calm and settled opinion seems to have been that forms of government have little or no influence on the happiness of society. This opinion, erroneous as it is, ought at least to have preserved him from all intemperance on political questions. It did not, however, preserve him from the lowest, fiercest, and most absurd extravagances of party spirit, from rants which, in every thing but the diction, resembled those of Squire Western. He was, as a politician, half ice and half fire. On the side of his intellect he was a mere Pocomurante, far too apathetic about public affairs, far too sceptical as to the good or evil tendency of any form of polity. His passions, on the contrary, were violent even to slaying against all who leaned to Whiggish principles. The well-known lines which he inserted in Goldsmith's Traveller express what seems to have been his deliberate judgment:

"How small, of all that human hearts endure,  
That part which kings or laws can cause or cure!"

He had previously put expressions very similar into the mouth of Rasselas. It is amusing to contrast these passages with the torrents of raving abuse which he poured forth against the Long Parliament and the American Congress. In one of the conversations reported by Boswell this inconsistency displays itself in the most ludicrous manner.

"Sir Adam Ferguson," says Boswell, "suggested that luxury corrupts a people, and destroys the spirit of liberty.

JOHNSON: 'Sir, that is all visionary. I would not give half a guinea to live under one form of government rather than another. It is of no moment to the happiness of an individual. Sir, the danger of the abuse of power is nothing to a private man. What Frenchman is prevented passing his life as he pleases?' SIR ADAM: 'But, sir, in the British constitution it is surely of importance to keep up a spirit in the people, so as to preserve a balance against the crown.' JOHNSON: 'Sir, I perceive you are a vile Whig. Why all this childish jealousy of the power 10 of the crown? The crown has not power enough.'

One of the old philosophers, Lord Bacon tells us, used to say that life and death were just the same to him. "Why then," said an objector, "do you not kill yourself?" The philosopher answered, "Because it is just the same." If the difference between two forms of government be not worth half a guinea, it is not easy to see how Whiggism can be viler than Toryism, or how the crown can have too little power. If the happiness of individuals is not affected by political abuses, zeal for liberty is 20 doubtless ridiculous. But zeal for monarchy must be equally so. No person could have been more quick-sighted than Johnson to such a contradiction as this in the logic of an antagonist.

The judgments which Johnson passed on books were, in his own time, regarded with superstitious veneration, and, in our time, are generally treated with indiscriminate contempt. They are the judgments of a strong but enslaved understanding. The mind of the critic was hedged round by an uninterrupted fence of prejudices and superstitions. 30 Within his narrow limits he displayed a vigour and an activity which ought to have enabled him to clear the barrier that confined him.

How it chanced that a man who reasoned on his premises so ably, should assume his premises so foolishly, is one of the great mysteries of human nature. The same

inconsistency may be observed in the schoolmen of the middle ages. Those writers show so much acuteness and force of mind in arguing on their wretched data, that a modern reader is perpetually at a loss to comprehend how such minds came by such data. Not a flaw in the superstructure of the theory which they are rearing escapes their vigilance. Yet they are blind to the obvious unsoundness of the foundation. It is the same with some eminent lawyers. Their legal arguments are intellectual  
 10 prodigies, abounding with the happiest analogies and the most refined distinctions. The principles of their arbitrary science being once admitted, the statute-book and the reports being once assumed as the foundations of reasoning, these men must be allowed to be perfect masters of logic. But if a question arises as to the postulates on which their whole system rests, if they are called upon to vindicate the fundamental maxims of that system which they have passed their lives in studying, these very men often talk the language of savages or of children. Those  
 20 who have listened to a man of this class in his own court and who have witnessed the skill with which he analyses and digests a vast mass of evidence, or reconciles a crowd of precedents which at first sight seem contradictory, scarcely know him again when, a few hours later, they hear him speaking on the other side of Westminster Hall in his capacity of legislator. They can scarcely believe that the paltry quirks which are faintly heard through a storm of coughing, and which do not impose on the plainest country gentleman, can proceed from the same sharp and vigorous  
 30 intellect which had excited their admiration under the same roof, and on the same day.

Johnson decided literary questions like a lawyer, not like a legislator. He never examined foundations where a point was already ruled. His whole code of criticism rested on pure assumption, for which he sometimes quoted a precedent or an authority, but rarely troubled himself

to give a reason drawn from the nature of things. He took it for granted that the kind of poetry which flourished in his own time, which he had been accustomed to hear praised from his childhood, and which he had himself written with success, was the best kind of poetry. In his biographical work he has repeatedly laid it down as an undeniable proposition that during the latter part of the seventeenth century, and the earlier part of the eighteenth, English poetry had been in a constant progress of improvement. Waller, Denham, Dryden, and Pope, had 10 been, according to him, the great reformers. He judged of all works of the imagination by the standard established among his own contemporaries. Though he allowed Homer to have been a greater man than Virgil, he seems to have thought the *Æneid* a greater poem than the *Iliad*. Indeed he might well have thought so; for he preferred Pope's *Iliad* to Homer's. He pronounced that, after Hoole's translation of Tasso, Fairfax's would hardly be reprinted. He could see no merit in our fine old English ballads, and always spoke with the most provoking con- 20 tempt of Percy's fondness for them. Of the great original works of imagination which appeared during his time, Richardson's novels alone excited his admiration. He could see little or no merit in *Tom Jones*, in *Gulliver's Travels*, or in *Tristram Shandy*. To Thomson's *Castle of Indolence*, he vouchsafed only a line of cold commendation, of commendation much colder than what he has bestowed on the *Creation* of that portentous bore, Sir Richard Blackmore. Gray was, in his dialect, a barren rascal. Churchill was a blockhead. The contempt which he felt 30 for the trash of Macpherson was indeed just; but it was, we suspect, just by chance. He despised the *Fingal* for the very reason which led many men of genius to admire it. He despised it, not because it was essentially commonplace, but because it had a superficial air of originality.

He was undoubtedly an excellent judge of compositions

fashioned on his own principles. But when a deeper philosophy was required, when he undertook to pronounce judgment on the works of those great minds which "yield homage only to eternal laws," his failure was ignominious. He criticized Pope's Epitaphs excellently. But his observations on Shakspeare's plays and Milton's poems seem to us for the most part as wretched as if they had been written by Rymer himself, whom we take to have been the worst critic that ever lived.

- 10 Some of Johnson's whims on literary subjects can be compared only to that strange nervous feeling which made him uneasy if he had not touched every post between the Mitre tavern and his own lodgings. His preference of Latin epitaphs to English epitaphs is an instance. An English epitaph, he said, would disgrace Smollett. He declared that he would not pollute the walls of Westminster Abbey with an English epitaph on Goldsmith. What reason there can be for celebrating a British writer in Latin, which there was not for covering the Roman arches  
20 of triumph with Greek inscriptions, or for commemorating the deeds of the heroes of Thermopylæ in Egyptian hieroglyphics, we are utterly unable to imagine.

On men and manners, at least on the men and manners of a particular place and a particular age, Johnson had certainly looked with a most observant and discriminating eye. His remarks on the education of children, on marriage, on the economy of families, on the rules of society, are always striking, and generally sound. In his writings, indeed, the knowledge of life which he possessed in an  
30 eminent degree is very imperfectly exhibited. Like those unfortunate chiefs of the middle ages who were suffocated by their own chain-mail and cloth of gold, his maxims perish under that load of words which was designed for their defence and their ornament. But it is clear from the remains of his conversation, that he had more of that homely wisdom which nothing but experience and obser-

vation can give than any writer since the time of Swift. If he had been content to write as he talked, he might have left books on the practical art of living superior to the Directions to Servants.

Yet even his remarks on society, like his remarks on literature, indicate a mind at least as remarkable for narrowness as for strength. He was no master of the great science of human nature. He had studied, not the genus man, but the species Londoner. Nobody was ever so thoroughly conversant with all the forms of life and all 10 the shades of moral and intellectual character which were to be seen from Islington to the Thames and from Hyde-Park corner to Mile-end green. But his philosophy stopped at the first turnpike-gate. Of the rural life of England he knew nothing; and he took it for granted that every body who lived in the country was either stupid or miserable. "Country gentlemen," said he, "must be unhappy; for they have not enough to keep their lives in motion;" as if all those peculiar habits and associations which made Fleet Street and Charing Cross the finest views in the 20 world to himself had been essential parts of human nature. Of remote countries and past times he talked with wild and ignorant presumption. "The Athenians of the age of Demosthenes," he said to Mrs. Thrale, "were a people of brutes, a barbarous people." In conversation with Sir Adam Ferguson he used similar language. "The boasted Athenians," he said, "were barbarians. The mass of every people must be barbarous where there is no printing." The fact was this: he saw that a Londoner who could not read was a very stupid and brutal fellow: he saw that 30 great refinement of taste and activity of intellect were rarely found in a Londoner who had not read much; and, because it was by means of books that people acquired almost all their knowledge in the society with which he was acquainted, he concluded, in defiance of the strongest and clearest evidence, that the human mind can be culti-

- vated by means of books alone. An Athenian citizen might possess very few volumes ; and the largest library to which he had access might be much less valuable than Johnson's bookcase in Bolt Court. But the Athenian might pass every morning in conversation with Socrates, and might hear Pericles speak four or five times every month. He saw the plays of Sophocles and Aristophanes : he walked amidst the friezes of Phidias and the paintings of Zeuxis : he knew by heart the choruses of Æschylus : he heard the
- 10 rhapsodist at the corner of the street reciting the shield of Achilles or the Death of Argus : he was a legislator, conversant with high questions of alliance, revenue, and war : he was a soldier, trained under a liberal and generous discipline : he was a judge, compelled every day to weigh the effect of opposite arguments. These things were in themselves an education, an education eminently fitted, not, indeed, to form exact or profound thinkers, but to give quickness to the perceptions, delicacy to the taste, fluency to the expression, and politeness to the manners.
- 20 All this was overlooked. An Athenian who did not improve his mind by reading was, in Johnson's opinion, much such a person as a Cockney who made his mark, much such a person as black Frank before he went to school, and far inferior to a parish clerk or a printer's devil.

Johnson's friends have allowed that he carried to a ridiculous extreme his unjust contempt for foreigners. He pronounced the French to be a very silly people, much behind us, stupid, ignorant creatures. And this judgment he formed after having been at Paris about a month, during

30 which he would not talk French for fear of giving the natives an advantage over him in conversation. He pronounced them, also, to be an indelicate people, because a French footman touched the sugar with his fingers. That ingenious and amusing traveller, M. Simond, has defended his countrymen very successfully against Johnson's accusation, and has pointed out some English practices which,



to an impartial spectator, would seem at least as inconsistent with physical cleanliness and social decorum as those which Johnson so bitterly reprehended. To the sage, as Boswell loves to call him, it never occurred to doubt that there must be something eternally and immutably good in the usages to which he had been accustomed. In fact, Johnson's remarks on society beyond the bills of mortality, are generally of much the same kind with those of honest Tom Dawson, the English footman in Dr. Moore's *Zeluco*. "Suppose the king of France has no sons, but only 10 a daughter, then, when the king dies, this here daughter, according to that there law, cannot be made queen, but the next near relative, provided he is a man, is made king, and not the last king's daughter, which, to be sure, is very unjust. The French footguards are dressed in blue, and all the marching regiments in white, which has a very foolish appearance for soldiers; and as for blue regimentals, it is only fit for the blue horse or the artillery."

Johnson's visit to the Hebrides introduced him to a state of society completely new to him; and a salutary suspicion 20 of his own deficiencies seems on that occasion to have crossed his mind for the first time. He confessed, in the last paragraph of his *Journey*, that his thoughts on national manners were the thoughts of one who had seen but little, of one who had passed his time almost wholly in cities. This feeling, however, soon passed away. It is remarkable that to the last he entertained a fixed contempt for all those modes of life and those studies which tend to emancipate the mind from the prejudices of a particular age or a particular nation. Of foreign travel and of history he spoke 30 with the fierce and boisterous contempt of ignorance. "What does a man learn by travelling? Is Beauclerk the better for travelling? What did Lord Charlemont learn in his travels, except that there was a snake in one of the pyramids of Egypt?" History was, in his opinion, to use the fine expression of Lord Plunkett, an old almanack:

historians could, as he conceived, claim no higher dignity than that of almanack-makers ; and his favourite historians were those who, like Lord Hailes, aspired to no higher dignity. He always spoke with contempt of Robertson. Hume he would not even read. He affronted one of his friends for talking to him about Catiline's conspiracy, and declared that he never desired to hear of the Punic war again as long as he lived.

Assuredly one fact which does not directly affect our  
 10 own interests, considered in itself, is no better worth knowing than another fact. The fact that there is a snake in a pyramid, or the fact that Hannibal crossed the Alps, are in themselves as unprofitable to us as the fact that there is a green blind in a particular house in Thread-needle Street, or the fact that a Mr. Smith comes into the city every morning on the top of one of the Blackwall stages. But it is certain that those who will not crack the shell of history will never get at the kernel. Johnson, with hasty arrogance, pronounced the kernel worthless,  
 20 because he saw no value in the shell. The real use of travelling to distant countries and of studying the annals of past times is to preserve men from the contraction of mind which those can hardly escape whose whole communion is with one generation and one neighbourhood, who arrive at conclusions by means of an induction not sufficiently copious, and who therefore constantly confound exceptions with rules, and accidents with essential properties. In short, the real use of travelling and of studying history is to keep men from being what Tom Dawson was  
 30 in fiction, and Samuel Johnson in reality.

Johnson, as Mr. Burke most justly observed, appears far greater in Boswell's books than in his own. His conversation appears to have been quite equal to his writings in matter, and far superior to them in manner. When he talked, he clothed his wit and his sense in forcible and natural expressions. As soon as he took his pen in his

hand to write for the public, his style became systematically vicious. All his books are written in a learned language, in a language which nobody hears from his mother or his nurse, in a language in which nobody ever quarrels, or drives bargains, or makes love, in a language in which nobody ever thinks. It is clear that Johnson himself did not think in the dialect in which he wrote. The expressions which came first to his tongue were simple, energetic, and picturesque. When he wrote for publication, he did his sentences out of English into Johnsonese. His letters 10 from the Hebrides to Mrs. Thrale are the original of that work of which the Journey to the Hebrides is the translation; and it is amusing to compare the two versions. "When we were taken up stairs," says he in one of his letters, "a dirty fellow bounced out of the bed on which one of us was to lie." This incident is recorded in the Journey as follows: "Out of one of the beds on which we were to repose started up, at our entrance, a man black as a Cyclops from the forge." Sometimes Johnson translated aloud. "The Rehearsal," he said, very unjustly, "has not 20 wit enough to keep it sweet;" then, after a pause, "it has not vitality enough to preserve it from putrefaction."

Mannerism is pardonable, and is sometimes even agreeable, when the manner, though vicious, is natural. Few readers, for example, would be willing to part with the mannerism of Milton or of Burke. But a mannerism which does not sit easy on the mannerist, which has been adopted on principle, and which can be sustained only by constant effort, is always offensive. And such is the mannerism of Johnson. 30

The characteristic faults of his style are so familiar to all our readers, and have been so often burlesqued, that it is almost superfluous to point them out. It is well known that he made less use than any other eminent writer of those strong plain words, Anglo-Saxon or Norman-French, of which the roots lie in the inmost depths of our language;

and that he felt a vicious partiality for terms which, long after our own speech had been fixed, were borrowed from the Greek and Latin, and which, therefore, even when lawfully naturalized, must be considered as born aliens, not entitled to rank with the king's English. His constant practice of padding out a sentence with useless epithets, till it became as stiff as the bust of an exquisite, his antithetical forms of expression, constantly employed even where there is no opposition in the ideas expressed, his big words  
 10 wasted on little things, his harsh inversions, so widely different from those graceful and easy inversions which give variety, spirit, and sweetness to the expression of our great old writers, all these peculiarities have been imitated by his admirers and parodied by his assailants, till the public has become sick of the subject.

Goldsmith said to him, very wittily and very justly, "If you were to write a fable about little fishes, doctor, you would make the little fishes talk like whales." No man surely ever had so little talent for personation. as Johnson.  
 20 Whether he wrote in the character of a disappointed legacy-hunter or an empty town fop, of a crazy virtuoso or a flippant coquette, he wrote in the same pompous and unbending style. His speech, like Sir Piercy Shafton's Euphuistic eloquence, bewrayed him under every disguise. Euphelia and Rhodoclea talk as finely as Imlac the poet, or Seged, Emperor of Ethiopia. The gay Cornelia describes her reception at the country-house of her relations, in such terms as these : "I was surprised, after the civilities of my first reception, to find, instead of the leisure and tran-  
 30 quillity which a rural life always promises, and, if well conducted, might always afford, a confused wildness of care, and a tumultuous hurry of diligence, by which every face was clouded, and every motion agitated." The gentle Tranquilla informs us, that she "had not passed the earlier part of life without the flattery of courtship, and the joys of triumph ; but had danced the round of gaiety amidst

the murmurs of envy and the gratulations of applause, had been attended from pleasure to pleasure by the great, the sprightly, and the vain, and had seen her regard solicited by the obsequiousness of gallantry, the gaiety of wit, and the timidity of love." Surely Sir John Falstaff himself did not wear his petticoats with a worse grace. The reader may well cry out, with honest Sir Hugh Evans, "I like not when a 'oman has a great pear: I spy a great pear under her muffler." <sup>1</sup>

We had something more to say. But our article is 10 already too long; and we must close it. We would fain part in good humour from the hero, from the biographer, and even from the editor, who, ill as he has performed his task, has at least this claim to our gratitude, that he has induced us to read Boswell's book again. As we close it the club-room is before us, and the table on which stands the omelet for Nugent, and the lemons for Johnson. There are assembled those heads which live for ever on the canvas of Reynolds. There are the spectacles of Burke and the tall thin form of Langton, the courtly sneer of Beauclerk 20 and the beaming smile of Garrick, Gibbon tapping his snuff-box and Sir Joshua with his trumpet in his ear. In the foreground is that strange figure which is as familiar to us as the figures of those among whom we have been brought up, the gigantic body, the huge massy face, seamed with the scars of disease, the brown coat, the black worsted stockings, the grey wig with the scorched foretop, the dirty hands, the nails bitten and pared to the quick. We see the eyes and mouth moving with convulsive twitches; we see the heavy form rolling; we hear it puffing; and then 30 comes the "Why, sir!" and the "What then, sir?" and the "No, sir!" and the "You don't see your way through the question, sir!"

<sup>1</sup> It is proper to observe that this passage bears a very close resemblance to a passage in the Rambler (No. 20). The resemblance may possibly be the effect of unconscious plagiarism.

What a singular destiny has been that of this remarkable man! To be regarded in his own age as a classic, and in ours as a companion! To receive from his contemporaries that full homage which men of genius have in general received only from posterity! To be more intimately known to posterity than other men are known to their contemporaries! That kind of fame which is commonly the most transient is, in his case, the most durable. The reputation of those writings, which he probably  
 10 expected to be immortal, is every day fading; while those peculiarities of manner and that careless table-talk, the memory of which he probably thought would die with him, are likely to be remembered as long as the English language is spoken in any quarter of the globe.

Lalji  
 Tan  
 H. A.

## NOTES.

September, 1831. This Essay was published by Mr. Macaulay (afterwards Lord Macaulay) in No. cvii. of the *Edinburgh Review*, September, 1831.

Page 1, l. 6. **typographical execution**, means the workmanship of the printing of the book. *Typography* (Greek τύπος, type; γράφειν, to write) is the art of printing.

ll. 9-13. **a certain leg of mutton... ill-dressed**. This story appears in Boswell, p. 634 (sub anno 1784): "At the inn where we stopped he was exceedingly dissatisfied with some roast mutton which we had for dinner. The ladies, I saw, wondered to see the great philosopher, whose wisdom and wit they had been admiring all the way, get into ill-humour from such a cause. He scolded the waiter, saying, 'It is as bad as bad can be; ill-fed, ill-killed, ill-kept, and ill-dressed.'"

Page 2, ll. 5-6. **Derrick ... 1760**. Croker's note is as follows: "Samuel Derrick was an Irishman, born about 1724: he was apprenticed to a linen-draper, but abandoned trade for the stage and literature: he made at least one attempt as actor, but failed: as an author he was more successful, but is now almost equally forgotten. He succeeded best as master of the ceremonies at Bath: but his extravagance and irregularities always kept him poor, and he died in 1760 in very necessitous circumstances." It has been suggested that '1760' may be only a misprint for '1769.' (See Boswell, p. 155, etc., sub anno 1763.)

l. 11. **Sheridan's lectures on oratory**. Boswell added the following note: "Mr. Sheridan was then (1763) reading lectures upon oratory at Bath, where Derrick was Master of the Ceremonies, or, as the phrase is, King."

l. 13. **Sir Herbert Croft, etc.** Boswell tells us (see p. 548, sub anno 1781) that Johnson "did Mr. Herbert Croft, then a barrister of Lincoln's Inn, now a clergyman, the honour to adopt a life of Young written by that gentleman, who was the friend of Dr. Young's son and wished to vindicate him from some very

erroneous remarks to his prejudice." Burke said of this production, "It is not a good imitation of Johnson; it has all his pomp without his force; it has all the nodosities of the oak without its strength" and, after a pause, "it has all the contortions of the Sybil, without the inspiration." Herbert Croft was born in 1751 and died in 1816. He was the grandson of Francis Croft, second son of the first baronet. On the death, without legitimate issue, in 1797, of Sir John Croft, the fourth baronet, Herbert succeeded to the baronetcy. Besides the life of Young, he wrote *A Brother's Advice to his Sisters, Love and Madness*, and several other works.

1. 14. Young, Edward (b. 1684, d. 1765), was a poet, dramatist, and prose writer. His principal works were *The Last Day* (1713); *The Force of Religion, or Vanquished Love* (1713); *Imperium Pelagi, a naval lyric* (1730); *The Complaint, or Night Thoughts on Life, Death, and Immortality* (1742).

1. 19. Sir William Forbes of Pitsligo, banker and author, was born in 1739 and died in 1806. He was an apprentice, and afterwards a partner, in Messrs. Coutts' bank. Subsequently he was head of the firm designated Forbes, Hunter & Co. This company, in 1838, became the Union Bank Company. Forbes was not only an authority on finance, but also a man of letters. He was a member of Johnson's literary club, and receives honourable mention in Boswell's *Tour to the Hebrides*. His long and familiar friendship with the poet Beattie enabled him to produce *An Account of the Life and Writings of James Beattie, LL.D.*, including many of his *Original Letters*.

1. 20. Beattie, James, poet and philosophical writer (b. 1735, d. 1802), wrote *Poems and Translations*; *Judgment of Paris*; *Essay on the Nature and Immutability of Truth*; *The Minstrel*; *Miscellaneous Essays*; *Dissertations, Moral and Political*; *Evidences of Christianity*; *Elements of Moral Science*, and several contributions to *The Mirror*.

1. 35. Allan Ramsay (b. 1709, d. 1784), a Scottish portrait-painter, through the influence of Lord Bute was named first painter to George III., in 1767. His portraits of George III. and his Queen Charlotte have been acquired for the National Gallery. Macaulay tells us in his *Essay on the Earl of Chatham* (see Popular Edition, p. 761) that "Ramsay, a Scotchman, was the Court painter, and was preferred to Reynolds."

1. 35-Page 3, l. 2. In one place we are told... age. This criticism has been answered thus in *Blackwood's Magazine*: "This is but a dishonest trick of his (Croker's) Reviewer. The age is indeed stated differently in the two notes; but one note is Mr. Croker's, and one is Mr. Boswell's. Mr. Boswell states colloquially that 'Allan Ramsay died in 1784 in his seventy-first year.' Mr. Croker states with more precision that



he was born in 1709 and died in 1784, and Mr. Croker is right—see, if you choose, *Biographical Dictionary*, voce Ramsay—and thus because Mr. Croker corrects an error, the Reviewer accuses him of making one.”

1. 4. Mrs. Thrale, Hester Lynch Salisbury, the daughter of John Salisbury of Bodville, Carnarvonshire, was born (as it appears from a protracted dispute between Croker and Macaulay), on 27th January, 1741. She was married in 1763 to Henry Thrale, a brewer of Southwark, and M.P. for that borough (see Boswell, 169, etc.). Soon after her marriage Johnson was introduced to her by Arthur Murphy in 1765. On the death of Mr. Thrale in 1781 she retired to Bath, where she was married in 1784 to Piozzi, an Italian music-master. With him she went to Florence, but on his death in 1809 she returned to England and died at Clifton, May 2, 1821. She was distinguished for her beauty and accomplishments. She was the authoress of *Anecdotes of the late Samuel Johnson, LL.D., during the last twenty years of his life* (1786), and *Letters to and from Dr. Johnson*; these publications are inferior in interest only to the work of Boswell. She wrote also *The Three Warnings*.

1. 22. Lord Mansfield, etc. : William Murray (afterwards Earl of Mansfield) was the fourth son of Lord Stormont. He became Solicitor-General in Lord Wilmington's cabinet (1742). In 1754 he became Attorney-General, and ultimately rose to the Chief-Justiceship and was created a peer. He was a very able judge. Lecky describes him as “the silver-tongued Murray—the most graceful, luminous, and subtle of all legal speakers.” He presided over the case of Wilkes, and was assailed with much bitterness by Junius in his letters; he presided also at the trial of Horne Tooke. His house was burned with his books and manuscripts by the “Protestant” rioters in 1780. He died in 1793.

In answer to this paragraph *Blackwood's Magazine* states: “The Reviewer is right, Dr. Johnson died in 1784, and Lord Mansfield in 1793. But the occasion on which Mr. Croker used the inaccurate colloquial phrase of *full ten years*, makes the inaccuracy of no consequence at all. He is noticing an anecdote of a gentleman's having stated that he called on Dr. Johnson soon after Lord Mansfield's death and that Johnson said, “Ah, sir, *there* was little learning, and less virtue.” This cruel anecdote Mr. Croker's natural indignation refutes from his general recollection, and without waiting to consult the printed obituaries, he exclaims: “It cannot be true, for Lord Mansfield survived Johnson *full ten years*!” Whereas, he ought to have said, “It cannot be true, for Lord Mansfield survived Johnson eight years and three months,” or what would have been still more accurate, “eight years, three months, and seven days.”

l. 29. Mr. Thrale. See note on Mrs. Thrale, p. 3, l. 4.

Prince Titi, etc. See Croker III. 271, and Boswell, p. 318 (sub. anno 1775).

The answer to this criticism is as follows: "Here is a pretty round assertion of a matter of fact. This history of Prince Titi, whether written by Prince Frederick or Ralph, was *certainly never published!*" Now, unfortunately for this learned reviewer, we have at this moment, on our table, the *Histoire du Prince Titi, A(llegorie) R(oyale)*. Paris chez la Veuve Oisot, Quai de conti à la croix d'or. And not only was it thus published in Paris but it was translated into English, and republished in London under the title of *The History of Prince Titi*, a Royal Allegory, translated by a lady."

Page 4, ll. 3, 4. Park's Royal and Noble Authors. The full title of this work is, "A catalogue of Royal and Noble Authors of England, Scotland, and Ireland, with a list of their works by the late Horatio Walpole, Earl of Orford, enlarged and continued to the present time by Thomas Park, F.S.A." It was published in London in 1806.

l. 6. Even if this memoir had been printed, etc. The answer to this is "Why not? it was written in French, printed in Paris, a very neat little volume, and is, moreover, just such a piece of fashionable secret history as would be sure to find its way to a French lady's bookcase."

l. 18. Mr. Henry Bate, etc. Mr. Croker's note (v. 196) was as follows: "Rev. Henry Bate, who, in 1784, took the name of Dudley, was created a baronet in 1815, and died in 1824 without issue. He became first known to the world for a rather unclerical exhibition of personal prowess in a Vauxhall squabble (see *London Magazine* for 1773, p. 461): he was afterwards actively connected with the public press; and in consequence of something that appeared in the *Morning Herald*, of which he was the proprietor, which was supposed to reflect on Lady Strathmore, he was involved in a duel (or pretended duel, *Gentlemen's Magazine*, 1810, p. 183; 1828, p. 496) with Mr. George Robinson Stoney, who soon after married the lady and took the name of Bowes. It is singular that these remarkable events of his early life are not alluded to in the ample biography of the *Gentlemen's Magazine* (Vol. xciv., pp. 273-638). He was afterwards high in the church, and an active and respectable magistrate."

Henry Bate Dudley, the Fighting Parson, was editor of the old *Morning Post* until 1780, when he quarrelled with some of his coadjutors and, on 1st November, started the *Morning Herald* upon liberal principles and in opposition to his old paper. Mr. Croker seems to have identified him with the *Morning Herald* and to have forgotten his earlier connection with the *Morning*

*Post.* If the duel took place in 1777, Bate was at the time editor of the *Morning Post*, not of the *Morning Herald*.

11. 19, 20. the *Morning Herald* was, as we have stated in the previous note, started by Rev. Henry Bate Dudley on 1st Nov., 1780, on Liberal principles, in direct opposition to the old Conservative *Morning Post*. It subsequently adopted Conservative principles, but became extinct, 31st December, 1869.

1. 23. the *Morning Post* dates from 1772. For some years it was in the hands of Henry Bate (afterwards known as Sir Henry Bate Dudley), and it attained some degree of temporary popularity, though of no very enviable sort. In 1795 the entire copyright, with house and printing materials, was sold for £600 to Peter and Daniel Stuart, who quickly raised the position of the *Post* by enlisting Mackintosh and Coleridge in its service, and also by giving unremitting attention to advertisements, and to the copious supply of incidental news and amusing paragraphs. Coleridge wrote for this paper from 1795 to 1802. Among other distinguished contributors, we may mention Southey, Arthur Young, Moore, Mackworth Praed, and Wordsworth (see article in *Encyclopaedia Britannica* on "Newspapers").

11. 25, 26. The *Chronicle of the Annual Register* begins with 1758; the earlier portions are attributed to Burke. It is published still by Longmans & Co.

1. 35. James de Douglas was son of William, fourth Lord Douglas, who had fought with Wallace. Sir James was one of the associates of Robert Bruce, upon whose death he was commissioned to carry the king's heart to the holy sepulchre at Jerusalem. He sailed on this errand in June, 1330. On arriving off Sluys in Flanders he learned that Alphonso XI., the young king of Leon and Castile, was engaged in a war with Osman the Moor. Douglas joined Alphonso against the enemies of Christendom. The Moors were defeated; but Douglas pursued them too impetuously; he flung among them the casket containing the heart of his king, and cried, "Now pass onward as thou wert wont; Douglas will follow thee or die!" The fugitives rallied and surrounded Douglas, who, with a few of his followers, perished while trying to rescue Sir Walter St. Clair of Roslin.

Page 5, l. 1. King Robert Bruce of Scotland was born about 1274. He submitted for a time to the rule of Edward I. of England, but joined the patriots after the victory at Stirling. In 1299 a regency was appointed, Bruce and his rival Comyn being at the head of it. For several years Bruce pretended to be loyal to Edward, but in 1306 he murdered Comyn, and was crowned king at Scone. He was defeated by an English army and fled to the isles, but his queen and family were captured and imprisoned. The war was renewed in the following year, but

Edward's death delayed the decision of the struggle. Bruce invaded England twice, took almost all the fortresses of Scotland except Stirling, and in 1314 won the battle of Bannockburn against Edward II. Peace was made with England in 1328, and a few months later Bruce died, early in 1329.

l. 11. the great Marquis of Montrose, etc. James Graham was the son of the Earl of Montrose, and was born at Edinburgh in 1613. He was educated in France. On his return home he was so much neglected through the jealousy of the Marquis of Hamilton that he joined the Covenanters for a time; but he afterwards took an active part on the side of the king, was created a marquis, gained the battle of Tippermuir (1644), sacked Aberdeen, and defeated the Marquis of Argyle at Inverlochy (February, 1645). He won several victories over the Covenanters in the summer of 1645, especially one at Kilsyth (August 15); but he was defeated by Lesley at Philiphaugh, near Selkirk (September 13), and was obliged to leave the kingdom. In January, 1650, he landed with a few followers in Orkney, but was taken prisoner and conveyed to Edinburgh, and there hung and quartered, May 21.

ll. 14, 15. one of the finest passages in Lord Clarendon's *History*. See *History of the Rebellion*, Bk. xii. §§ 138-140: "He was told by the chancellor that he was on the morrow, being the one and twentieth of May, 1650, to be carried to Edinburgh cross and there to be hanged upon a gallows thirty feet high for the space of three hours, and then to be taken down and his head to be cut off upon a scaffold, and hanged on Edinburgh tolbooth, and his legs and arms to be hanged up in other public towns of the kingdom, and his body to be buried at the place where he was to be executed. ...

"The next day they executed every part and circumstance of that barbarous sentence with all the inhumanity imaginable: and he bore it with all the courage and magnanimity and the greatest piety that a good Christian could manifest: He magnified the virtue, courage, and religion of the last king, exceedingly commended the justice and goodness and understanding of the present king, and prayed that they might not betray him as they had done his father. When he had ended all he meant to say, and was expecting to expire, they had yet one scene more to act of their tyranny. The hangman brought the book that had been published of his truly heroic actions whilst he had commanded in that kingdom, which book was tied in a small cord that was put about his neck. The Marquis smiled at this new instance of their malice, and thanked them for it: and said he was pleased that it should be there: and was prouder of wearing it than ever he had been of the garter: and so renewing some devout ejaculations he patiently endured the last act of the executioner."

If "every part and circumstance of that barbarous sentence" was executed, and Clarendon says that it was, then Montrose was both hanged and beheaded. We have no sympathy with such captious criticism as this on the part of Macaulay.

1. 20. Lord Townshend, etc., was made Secretary of State at the accession of George I.; he married Walpole's sister; and these two friends and brothers-in-law offended the King's Hanoverian favourites, incurred the enmity of Sunderland, lost the king's favour, and were compelled to resign office in 1716, and joined the ranks of the opposition. In 1720 Townshend was received into favour again, and was made President of the Council: in 1721 Walpole was Prime Minister, and Townshend, Secretary of State.

1. 24. Sunderland, etc. In 1717 Sunderland became First Lord of the Treasury. Stanhope received an earldom and became Secretary of State; Addison was the other Secretary of State; Aislabie was Chancellor of the Exchequer, and James Craggs, the Secretary of War. Sunderland resigned in 1721, and Walpole returned to power. Stanhope died suddenly in February, 1722, and was replaced as Secretary of State by Lord Townshend.

1. 29. Charles Townshend, the chancellor of the exchequer, etc., was born in 1725; he was grandson of Lord Townshend, the Secretary of State, and early distinguished as a member of the House of Commons, to which he was returned in 1747. At different times of his career he held the offices of Lord of the Admiralty, Treasurer of the Chamber, Secretary at War, First Lord of Trade and the Plantations, and Paymaster of the Forces, and in 1766 was appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer under Chatham. Owing to Chatham's illness, Townshend was virtually Prime Minister, and responsible for the fatal resolution for taxing the American colonies, which led to the American war. He died in September, 1767.

Page 6, 1. 1. General Burgoyne surrendered at Saratoga on 17th October, 1777, in consequence of reverses at the two battles of Stillwater on 19th September and 7th October (see Bryant and Gay's *History of the United States*, Vol. III. pp. 585-592).

1. 5. Byng, etc. Minorca was left to its fate by Byng on 20th May, 1756, and after a brave resistance it was taken by the French under the Duke de Richelieu on 28th June. Byng arrived at Portsmouth on 26th July, and was removed thence to Greenwich, where he was kept in close confinement till his trial. Lecky writes as follows (ch. vii.): "When, during the administration of Newcastle, the news arrived of the surrender of Minorca, the indignation against Byng ran fierce and high. He was burnt in effigy in all the great towns. His seat in Hertford-

shire was assaulted by the mob. The streets and shops swarmed with ballads and libels directed against him. Addresses to the king soon poured in from Dorsetshire, Huntingdon, Buckingham, Bedford, Suffolk, Shropshire, Surrey, Somerset, Lancashire, from most of the great towns, and especially from the city of London, calling for a strict inquiry into the causes of the fall of Minorca, and it soon became evident that the people would be satisfied with nothing less than blood. Newcastle, terrified to the utmost, was only too ready to offer up any scapegoat. 'Oh, indeed, he shall be tried immediately, he shall be hanged directly,' he is said to have blurted out to a deputation from the city who came to him with representations against the admiral. ... The trial lasted from December 21, 1756, till the 20th of the following January. The court fully acquitted Byng of all cowardice and of all disaffection, but while admitting that he had acted according to his conscientious judgment, they, after much hesitation and delay, pronounced that he had not done all in his power to destroy the French ships or to relieve Minorca, and that he was accordingly guilty of neglect of duty. ... [By the articles of war he was liable to capital punishment: the court unanimously recommended him to mercy: Pitt, Temple, Voltaire, and the most prominent members of the court urged the gross injustice of executing the admiral for an error of judgment.] ... But all these efforts were in vain. Newcastle and his partisans, though out of office, had lost little of their power. They imagined that by the execution of Byng they could win popularity, secure themselves from the indignation of the nation, and assist Lord Anson, who had been First Lord of the Admiralty when the disaster took place, and to whose neglect it was mainly to be attributed. Fox, who showed on this occasion what he showed more conspicuously in the next reign—the callous selfishness which lay below his superficial good nature—made great use of the unpopularity of Byng as a party weapon against Pitt, and Lord Hardwicke steadily laboured for his destruction. The unfortunate admiral exhibited in the last days of life an admirable courage; and his execution, which took place on March 14, reflected much more real discredit upon the nation that demanded it than the military disaster which caused it."

1. 31. *crassa negligentia*, is such negligence as in the eye of the law amounts to breach of duty, in consequence of which some accident may have taken place which would not in all probability have happened if the person causing it had used due care. Negligence is not actionable unless it expresses and establishes some breach of duty.

*crassa ignorantia*, dense, inexcusable, criminal ignorance; for in the eyes of the law, ignorance of what any man of dis-

cretion not only may but is bound and presumed to know, cannot be urged as an excuse. "Ignorantia eorum quae quis scire tenetur non excusat," and again, "Ignorantia facti excusat, ignorantia juris non excusat." Neither magistrates nor doctors can be made responsible for an erroneous judgment, for mere mistakes, for negligence, ignorance, or misconduct, not amounting to an abuse of their authority. But if their negligence express a breach of duty, or their ignorance be inexcusable, then they are liable for misconduct.

Page 7, l. 8. Gibbon, etc. The first volume of Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* was published on 1st February, 1776; the second and third volumes in 1781; and the last three volumes in 1788. For Boswell's account of the conversation to which allusion is made here, see p. 339 (sub anno 1776).

l. 20-Page 8, l. 11. This leads the editor to observe a more serious inaccuracy of Mrs. Piozzi. ... Mrs. Piozzi's anecdotes. In defence of Mr. Croker's statement that "Dr. Johnson was not acquainted with the Thrales till 1765," we need only point out that he is following Boswell's explicit statement (see p. 169), "this year (viz., 1765) was distinguished by his (Johnson's) being introduced into the family of Mr. Thrale." But Mr. Croker is in error about the date of the publication of *The Vicar of Wakefield*. The manuscript of the *Vicar* was sold in 1762, but was not issued to the public till March, 1766. The following is an entry in the account book of B. Collins of Salisbury, the printer of the first edition of the *Vicar*: "*Vicar of Wakefield*, 2 vols, 12mo, 3rd, B. Collins, Salisbury, bought of Dr. Goldsmith, the author, October 28, 1762, £21." Collins shared in many of the ventures of Francis Newbery, Goldsmith's publisher. (See Dr. Birkbeck Hill's edition of *Boswell*, Vol. I., p. 415, note.)

Page 8, ll. 19, 21. the celebrated scene of the landlady, the sheriff's officer, and the bottle of Madeira; see Boswell, pp. 140, 141 (sub anno 1763).

l. 24. Sir Joseph Mawbey, a foolish member of Parliament, etc. He was born in 1730, became Sheriff of the County of Surrey in 1757, and for about twenty-seven years acted as chairman of the Surrey Quarter Sessions. He was M.P. for Southwark from 1761 to 1768, and from 1768 to 1774; and in 1775 he was returned for the County of Surrey. He was made a baronet in 1765. Originally in opposition to Toryism, he became a supporter of Pitt; after 1790, however, he ceased to sit in Parliament. He died in 1798. Mawbey, though leaning for many years to the side of the Whigs, professed to be above party, and so was ridiculed by the wits of either side. Walpole calls him "vain, noisy, and foolish." Among the best known lines in the

*Rolliad* are those referring to Speaker Cornwall's "unhappy fate," who hears

"Fox, North, and Burke, but hears Sir Joseph too."

Other passages in the same poem allude to his voice, his knowledge "in grain," and to the fact that "Sir Joseph is as witty as he's good" (Extracts from *Dictionary of National Biography*).

1. 25. Brookes's Club was founded in Pall Mall, in 1764, by twenty-seven noblemen and gentlemen, including the Duke of Roxburgh, the Duke of Portland, the Earl of Strathmore, Mr. Crewe, and Mr. C. J. Fox. It was originally a gaming club and was farmed at first by Almack, afterwards by Brooks, a wine merchant. The present house in St. James's Street was built at Brooks's expense. It then became a political (Whig) and social club. The following are some of the most eminent members—C. J. Fox, Burke, Selwyn, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Garrick, Horace Walpole, David Hume, Gibbon, Sheridan.

1. 27. Garrick, David, was a distinguished actor, tragedian, and dramatist (b. 1716, d. 1779). As an actor Garrick seems never to have been equalled for truth, nature, variety, and facility of expression, though perhaps surpassed by some of his contemporaries in the enunciation of calm sentimental eloquence. He wrote or adapted for the stage nearly forty pieces, the chief of these are *The Lying Valet*, *Miss in her Teens*, and *The Clandestine Marriage*.

1. 30. Home's play, *The Douglas*, a tragedy written by John Home, a minister of the Church of Scotland (1724-1808), was produced in Edinburgh in 1756.

Macpherson's *Ossian*. James Macpherson produced in 1760 *Fragments of Ancient Poetry translated from the Gaelic or Erse languages*. These were so much admired that a subscription was raised to enable the author to go to Scotland to search for other remains of ancient poetry. He returned with two epics, *Fingal* (in six books), and *Temora* (in eight books), both of which he attributed to Ossian, the son of Fingal, a Gaelic prince and bard of the third century. At first these poems took the English literary world by storm, and they were translated into several European languages, and were the favourite reading of Napoleon. Their authenticity, however, was disputed by Johnson, Hume, Pinkerton, and Malcolm Laing; Wordsworth also declared them to be an imposture. But although *Fingal* and *Temora* are proved to be almost wholly an eighteenth century concoction, an important collection of genuine Gaelic ballads, some of them Ossianic, has been published, entitled *The Book of the Dean of Lismore*.

Page 9, ll. 15, 16. Johnson took his Master's degree in 1754; see Boswell, p. 91.



l. 16. his Doctor's degree in 1775; see Boswell, p. 296.

ll. 16, 17. In the Spring of 1776, he paid a visit to Oxford; see Boswell, p. 336.

l. 23. conversation with Blair; see Boswell, p. 133 (sub anno 1763).

Page 10, l. 24. Juvenal, Decius Junius, a Roman poet, and unrivalled satirist of the social vices of his age. He was born at Aquinum, probably about 55 A.D. He studied declamation, and excelled in declamatory satire: he served in the army, and in 81 A.D. visited Britain under Agricola. He lived far into the reign of Hadrian, by whom he was banished (probably to Egypt), in the year 135 A.D., at the age of eighty. Juvenal wrote sixteen satires, of which the 2nd, 6th, and 9th are, as Dr. Johnson said, "too gross for imitation."

l. 26. Johnson ... defending Prior's tales, etc.; see Boswell, p. 428 (sub anno 1777).

Prior, Matthew (b. 1664, d. 1721), poet and wit of the reign of Queen Anne, published *The City and Country Mouse*, *Carmen Saeculare*, and other poems. Thackeray, in his *English Humorists*, says, "Johnson speaks slightly of his lyrics; but with due deference to the great Samuel, Prior's seem to me amongst the easiest, the richest, the most charmingly humorous of English lyrical poems."

Page 11, ll. 2, 3. our soul assuredly should not spare for his crying: cf. *Proverbs*, xix. 18, "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying."

ll. 8-11. From one blunder ... Horace: Macaulay alludes to the following note by Mr. Croker upon Johnson's Latin ode upon Inchkenneth: "It has been observed as strange, that so nice a critic as Johnson should have within six lines made the first syllable of *librum* both long and short. But Mr. Peel (to whom the observation was repeated) reminded the editor, with happy readiness, that Horace had done the same; see Hor. *Ep.* II. i. 216":

"Si munus Apolline dignum  
Vis complere libris et vatibus addere calcar,"

and l. 220:

"Cum tibi librum  
Sollicito damus aut fesso."

l. 18. puella, etc. Mr. Croker had forgotten Horace, *Carm.* III. 22, *ad init.*:

"Montium custos nemorumque, Virgo,  
Quae laborantes utero *puellas*  
Ter vocata audis adinisque leto,  
Diva triformis,"

ll. 22, 23. In the secular ode, etc. ; Hor. *Carm. Sec.*, ll. 13-16 :

" Rite maturos aperire partus  
Lenis, Ilithyia, tuere matres,  
Sive tu Lucina probas vocari  
Seu Genitalis."

ll. 25, 26. Homer in his *Odyssey*, to Claudian in his *Rape of Proserpine*. The attributes of Artemis or Diana are chastity and vigour rather than beauty. The huntress queen is represented in works of art as tall and graceful, but we do not remember any passage in the *Odyssey* or in Claudian that extols her beauty. Claudian (xxiv. 258) mentions "*acies formosa Dianae*," and (xxxvii. 40) says :

" Hic sibi promittit Venerem, spiratque Dianae  
Conjugium, castamque cupit violare Minervam."

From such passages we may infer that Diana was beautiful, but they can hardly be said to extol her beauty.

Page 12, l. 5. *Coptic*, the language of the Copts. A Copt is a native Egyptian Christian belonging to the Jacobite sect of Monophysites. (Copt is the Mod. Lat. *Coptus*, *Cophthus*, Arabic *qūft*, probably akin to Greek *Αἰγύπτιος*.)

l. 16. Bentley, Richard (b. 1662, d. 1742), the great philologist, was Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, and Regius Professor of Divinity. His writings are very numerous, including *Dissertations on the Epistles of Phalaris*, editions of Horace and Terence, *Remarks on the Discourse of Freethinking*, and an edition of *Paradise Lost*.

Casaubon, Isaac (b. 1559, d. 1614), was one of the greatest scholars of the sixteenth century. In the course of his life he held several high literary appointments : he was professor of Greek at the Academy at Geneva, professor of languages at Montpellier, and keeper of the royal library at Paris. At the invitation of Archbishop Bancroft, Casaubon came to England in October, 1610, was presented to James I., and was made a prebendary of Canterbury Cathedral. He died in 1614, and was buried in Westminster Abbey. His principal works are *Ephemerides* (his diary), his edition and commentary on *Athenaeus*, and *Exercitationes in Baronium*.

ll. 20-27. My  $\theta \phi$  ... departed friends ... flogging. The answer to this paragraph is as follows : "The question is not here about classical Greek, but what Johnson meant by the cipher  $\theta \phi$ . Mr. Croker's solution is not only ingenious, but, we think, absolutely certain : it means 'departed friends' beyond all doubt. See in Dr. Strahan's book, under 'Easter Sunday, 1781,' an instance of the same kind : 'I commended (in prayer) my  $\theta$  friends.' The Reviewer, with notable caution, omits to tell us which of the derivatives of *θαυατος* and *θησκω* he would have

chosen; but we think with Mr. Croker that none was more likely to have occurred to Johnson's mind than *θητοῖς*, because it is *good Greek*, and is, moreover, a word which we find him quoting on another occasion, in which he deplores the loss of a friend. *Good Greek*, we say in defiance of the menaced flogging; for we have authority that we suppose even the Reviewer may bow to." He then quotes a passage from the *Supplices of Euripides* (see footnote, p. 12, *supra*). Mr. Fitzgerald suggests that *θ φ* denotes *Θεῖα Φίλα* "my beloved Tetty." If guesses of this kind are to be permitted one might hazard "my Thrale friends." We may point out that Macaulay does not quote quite correctly; the original is "at the altar I commended my *θ φ*, and again prayed the prayer."

l. 21. Dr. Strahan, Johnson's friend, the Rev. George Strahan, Vicar of Islington, who published his *Prayers and Meditations*; see Boswell, p. 77 (sub anno 1752), and p. 671 (sub anno 1784).

l. 28. Mr. Croker has also given us a specimen of his skill in translating Latin, etc. Murray replies: "This is excellent! The Reviewer tells us that Johnson's Latin is incorrect, and then blames Mr. Croker for not having *correctly* translated that which the Reviewer thinks himself obliged to alter in order to make it intelligible. Mr. Croker probably saw, as well as the Reviewer, that the phrase was inaccurate; but, instead of clumsily changing *imperatur* into *imperatum est* (which, with all deference to the Reviewer, is much worse than the original), he naturally supposes that *imperatur*, the indicative, is merely the transcriber's error of a *single letter* for either the imperative or the conditional moods, and translates it accordingly, without thinking it necessary to blazon the exploit in a long explanation,—'How A's deposed, and E with pomp restored.'" Dr. Birkbeck Hill's translation of this part of the letter is: "If you say yes, let the messenger be bidden (*imperetur*) to bring Holder to me," which is a little more literal, but conveys much the same meaning as Mr. Croker's translation of the reading *imperetur*.

Page 13, ll. 1, 2, a note in which he consulted his friend, Dr. Lawrence. This letter was written in 1782, and is given at length by Boswell (see p. 582).

l. 12. Corderius, a Latin form of the name of Mathurin Cordier, an eminent teacher in the sixteenth century. He spent his long life in teaching children at Paris, Nevers, Bordeaux, Geneva, Neuchâtel, Lausanne; he died at Geneva, at the age of 85, in 1564. Calvin was one of his pupils. He published several books for the use of schools; his "Colloquia," says Boyle, "have been printed a thousand times."

ll. 15, 16. Johnson, in his *Life of Tickell*, etc.; see Vol. x., p. 269, of *Johnson's Works* by Arthur Murphy.

l. 16. Tickell, Thomas, was a poet and politician (b. 1686, d. 1740). He wrote *The Prospect of Peace*, *The Royal Progress*, *An Epistle to a Gentleman at Avignon*, *Verses on Cato*, *Kensington Gardens*, *Colin and Lucy*, a translation of the first book of the *Iliad*, and other pieces. His Life by Johnson appears among the *Lives of the Poets*. Addison criticizes some of his works most favourably in the *Spectator*, to which Tickell contributed occasionally. Tickell was a contributor also to the *Guardian*.

l. 16. the *Royal Progress*, which appears in the last volume of the *Spectator*; see No. 620.

ll. 24-27. In the Life of Granville ... George I.; see Vol. x., pp. 255, 256, of *Johnson's Works*. George Granville, afterwards Lord Lansdowne (b. 1667, d. 1735), was a poet. His chief writings are: *The She-Gallants*, *The Jew of Venice*, *Heroic Love*, *The British Enchanters*, *Peleus and Thetis*. Johnson writes his Life in the *Lives of the Poets*.

l. 33. want of perspicacity means 'inability to understand what is perfectly plain to most people.'

Page 14, l. 1. Mattaire, etc.; see Boswell, p. 527 (sub anno 1780).

l. 21. Sir William Jones (1746-1794), a distinguished scholar and "learned Orientalist," was author of a French version of a Persian *Life of Nadir Shah*, a *Persian Grammar*, *Poems and Translations*, an *Essay on the Law of Bailments*, and other works. He was a member of the Literary Club and is mentioned frequently by Boswell. He married Miss Shepley, the daughter of the Bishop of St. Asaph. His portrait may be seen in the hall of University College, Oxford, of which he was a member. According to Lord Teignmouth, Sir William Jones "studied eight languages critically, eight less perfectly, but all intelligible, with a dictionary, and twelve least perfectly, but all attainable."

ll. 22, 23. One of the distichs is translated from some old Latin lines. The lines are quoted by Lord Coke in his *Institutes* (and also in Croker's note, v. 233):

"Sex horae somno, totidem des legibus aequis,  
Quatuor orabis, des epulisque duas  
Quod super est ultro sacris largire Camaenis."

Page 15, l. 9. Tom Davies, etc.; see Boswell, p. 523 (sub anno 1763), and p. 131 (sub anno 1761). Thomas Davies (b. 1712, d. 1785), bookseller, author, and actor, wrote *Memoirs of David Garrick*, *Dramatic Miscellanies*, and other works. He was be-

friended by Johnson, and frequent reference is made to him in Boswell's *Life*. Churchill wrote of him thus:

"With him came mighty Davies; on my life,  
That Davies hath a very pretty wife";

and again,

"He mouths a sentence as curs mouth a bone."

ll. 10-13. an author generated by the corruption of a bookseller ... allusion to the famous dogma of the old physiologists. Dryden made a similar allusion to that dogma. The dogma to which allusion is made is, "corruptio unius generatio est alterius." It is one of the "axiomes. Philosophiques," No. 313, p. 413, of Chasier's *Quelque Six Mille Proverbes*, Paris, 1856 (Notes and Queries, 8th S., ix., p. 56). Davies had become bankrupt as a bookseller; to earn a living he became an author, and in the spring of 1780 published his *Memoirs of Garrick*, which reached its third edition by the following spring. Johnson accordingly wrote to Dr. Beattie at Aberdeen (21 Aug. 1780): "Mr. Davies had got great success as an author generated by the corruption of a bookseller." On this passage Mr. Fitzgerald (in *Croker's Boswell and Boswell*) writes: "A happy, satirical phrase, quite intelligible." But Mr. Croker explains: "This means that Davies, from his adversity as a bookseller, had burst into new and gaudier life as an author." It certainly does not. The corruption intended is *moral*, and Johnson would have applied the phrase had Davies not been bankrupt. This is shown by the original form of the phrase quoted from Dryden and others, "the corruption of a poet is the generation of a critic." Some think that it is an allusion to the belief in spontaneous generation, and the exploded doctrine that mould, dirt, and putrefaction generate low forms of life. But the generalization that everything grows to what it is through the decay of what it *was*; in other words, that everything grows by means of the corruption or death of something else has been the teaching of the earliest physiologists, and is held to be true still, for everything grows by altering and assimilating something else. Lucretius enunciates the principle thus (l. 670):

"Nam quodcumque suis mutatum finibus exit  
Continuo mors est illius quod fuit ante."

The explanation of the passage in Johnson is as follows: When Tom Davies "mutatus finibus suis exiit," and became an author, he was done with *qua* bookseller,

"Continuo mors erat illius qui fuit ante."

Dr. Birkbeck Hill quotes from Young's first *Epistle to Pope concerning the Authors of the Age* (1730):

"For bankrupts write when ruin'd shops are shut,  
As maggots crawl from out a ruined nut."

ll. 20-22. "No man," said Johnson, "can now be made a bishop for his learning and piety." This remark is recorded, not by Boswell, but by Mrs. Piozzi; but is embodied in Croker's edition of Boswell.

l. 30. Malone, Edmund (b. 1741, d. 1812), a critic and miscellaneous writer. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, and was called to the Irish Bar; but, being possessed of an independent fortune, devoted himself to literature. In 1780 he published two supplementary volumes to Stevens's *Shakespeare*, and in 1790 he brought out his own edition of *Shakespeare*. Among other works he wrote a *Life of Sir Joshua Reynolds*, a *Life of Dryden*, and a *Biographical Sketch of the Right Hon. William Windham*.

Page 16, ll. 3, 4. Sir Reginald Malcolm is unknown to me. He is probably a character in a play or novel. I should be obliged if any of my readers would tell me where he occurs.

l. 4. Pelham, the gentleman whose adventures are told in *Pelham*, a novel by Edward, Lord Lytton, published anonymously in 1827.

l. 9. *capillaire*, a syrup made from the *adiantum* or maiden-hair.

ll. 10, 11. Mrs. Thrale ... music master. Mr. Thrale died in 1781, and subsequently his widow was married to Piozzi, an Italian music master.

ll. 16, 17. The vulgarism of "mutual friend," for "common friend." If A is the friend of B, and also of C, then A should be called the common friend not the mutual friend of B and C.

ll. 17, 18. "fallacy" used as synonymous with "falsehood." A fallacy is a plausible argument which violates the laws of correct reasoning. A falsehood is an untrue assertion, a lie.

ll. 19, 22. Lord Erskine...company. He ought strictly to stand for Lord Erskine each time, but evidently the first *he* is Lord Erskine, the second *he* is the editor. *Lord Erskine*, see Boswell, p. 234 (sub anno 1772).

ll. 23-25. Markland, who, with Jortin and Thirlby ... eminence. *Who* is a grammatical error for *whom*.

Markland, Jeremiah (b. 1693, d. 1776), an eminent critic and classical scholar, was born at Childwall in Lancashire, was educated at Christ's Hospital, and Peterhouse, Cambridge, and died near Dorking, Surrey. His principal works are an edition of the *Silvae* of Statius, and *Remarks on the Epistles of Cicero to Brutus and of Brutus to Cicero*.

Jortin, John, D.D. (b. 1698, d. 1770), was an eminent scholar and divine; he was employed by Pope to select the notes from Eustathius to print with his translation of the *Iliad*. He held successively the livings of Swavesey, St. Dunstan's in the

East, and Kensington; he was also a prebendary of St. Paul's and Archdeacon of London. His chief works are: *Discourses concerning the Truth of the Christian Religion, Observations upon Authors, Life of Erasmus, Remarks upon Ecclesiastical History*, and seven volumes of *Sermons and Charges*. See also Boswell, p. 450.

ll. 23-25. Thirlby, Styan, LL.D., a very ingenious and learned critic, was the son of Mr. Thirlby, vicar of St. Margaret's, Leicester, and was born about 1692. He was educated at Leicester, and Jesus College, Cambridge. He obtained a fellowship of his college, and in turn studied Divinity, Physic, and Law. He gave lectures on Civil Law; and Sir Edward Walpole and Dr. Jortin were among his pupils. He published an edition of *Justin Martin's Two Apologies*, and his *Dialogue with Typho the Jew*. He also contributed some notes to Theobald's *Shakespeare*, and is mentioned in Dr. Johnson's edition of *Shakespeare* as a commentator.

l. 25. Warburton, William, Bishop of Gloucester (b. 1698, d. 1779), wrote *A Vindication of Pope's Essay on Man* (1740), and *A Commentary* on the same work (1742).

l. 27. of, is a solecism for *towards*.

ll. 27, 28. It was him that Horace Walpole called a man who, etc. *Him* is a solecism for *he*; cf. *Jackdaw of Rheims*. "Regardless of grammar they all cried that's *him*." Horace Walpole, Earl of Orford, the youngest son of Sir Robert Walpole, was an antiquary and prolific writer. His chief works are: *The Castle of Otranto*; *The Mysterious Mother*; *Historic Doubts on the Life and Reign of Richard III*; *Memoirs of the Reign of George III.*, etc., etc.; and also *Letters*. For a criticism of his *Letters* etc., see Macaulay's *Essays*, p. 207, etc.

l. 29. solecism (Fr. *solecisme*, Pro. *soloecisme*, It. and Sp. *solecismo*, Greek *σολοικισμός*, from *σολοικίζειν*, to speak or write incorrectly, from the corruption of the Attic dialect among the Athenian colonists of *Σόλοι* in Cilicia). Impropriety in language, or a gross deviation from the rules of syntax (Webster).

Page 17, l. 7. prudery (Fr. *pruderie*), affected scrupulousness, excessive nicety in conduct.

l. 11. expurgation, the act of purging, cleansing, purifying; purification from anything noxious, offensive, sinful, or erroneous (Webster).

l. 12. the morning and evening lessons. Portions of the Bible read at the morning and evening services of the Church of England. *Lesson* is akin to Fr. *leçon*, It. *lezione*, Lat. *lectio*, a reading.

ll. 23, 24. a coarse and stupid jest of Dr. Taylor, etc. See Boswell, p. 446 (sub anno 1778).

l. 29. Mrs. Thrale. See p. 3, l. 4, *supra*, and note.

l. 30. Mr. Tyers. Tom Tyers was son of Mr. Jonathan Tyers, founder of Vauxhall Gardens; he was trained for a lawyer, but gave up that profession; he wrote a *Biographical Sketch of Dr. Johnson*, and also *Political Conferences*. Johnson used to say of him, "Tom Tyers described me the best." See Boswell, pp. 474-5 (sub anno 1778).

Mr. Murphy. Arthur Murphy (b. 1727, d. 1805), an author and actor, was born in Clomquin, Roscommon; he was at one time a clerk in a merchant's office, but he soon gave up a commercial for a literary life. He was distinguished as an actor, taking the parts of Othello, Hamlet, Macbeth, Richard III., etc., etc., at Covent Garden and Drury Lane theatres. He also published several plays: *The Apprentice*, *The Spouter or the Triple Revenge*, *The Upholsterer or What News?* *The Orphan of China*, *The Desert Island*, *The way to keep him*, *The Citizen*, *The Old Maid*, *Zenobia*, *The Rival Sisters*, etc. He edited several papers: *The Gray's Inn Journal*, *The Test*, and *The Auditor*; he published an edition of the works of Henry Fielding in 10 volumes, and an *Essay on the Life and Genius of Samuel Johnson*, LL.D., 1792, besides many other books.

l. 31. Mr. Cradock. Joseph Cradock (b. 1742, d. 1826) was a native of Leicester. He was educated at Emmanuel College, Cambridge; he was a man of varied attainments, displaying considerable talents for acting, music, and letters. He has been described as "a sort of twin brother" of Garrick, both in mind and body. Leslie Stephen describes Cradock's *Literary and Miscellaneous Memoirs* as a rambling collection of reminiscences, some of which, especially of Goldsmith and Johnson, are interesting.

Sir John Hawkins (b. 1719, d. 1789), author, was the youngest son of a carpenter; he was articled to John Scott, an attorney in Bishopsgate. He managed to find time for studying both law and literature. He wrote for the *Gentleman's Magazine*, and thus he made the acquaintance of Johnson. He was one of the nine members of the club formed by Johnson in the winter of 1748-9 at the King's Head, Ivy Lane. He was also one of the original members of the famous club founded in 1763. He undertook to write Johnson's life and to edit his works. The life and works appeared in 1787-9 in eleven volumes. The works were carelessly edited, and the life was soon extinguished by Boswell's. Hawkins' book preserves a few anecdotes which would otherwise have been lost, but is pompous and feeble (Extracts from *Dictionary of National Biography*).

l. 34. Thucydides (b. B.C. 471, d. about B.C. 401), the great Athenian historian. His History of the Peloponnesian War is marked by the strictest impartiality, and perhaps offers a more



exact account of a long and eventful period than any other contemporary history, whether ancient or modern, of an equally long and eventful era.

1. 35. Diodorus (b. 50 B.C., d. 13 A.D.), called, from his country, Siculus, or the Sicilian, was a contemporary of Julius and Augustus Caesar. He was the author of a universal history, entitled *Bibliotheca Historica*, in 40 books, of which 15 books are extant still.

1. 36. Suetonius, C. Tranquillus, the Roman historian, was a contemporary of Vespasian, Trajan, and Hadrian (about 75 to 160 A.D.). He wrote on all kinds of subjects, but his chief and only extant work is his "Lives of the Caesars" (*De vita Caesarum*); we have only fragments of his accounts of famous men (*De viris illustribus*).

Tacitus, C. Cornelius (about 51 to 120 A.D.). The extant works of this historian are a *Life of Agricola*, his father-in-law; the *Annales* beginning with the death of Augustus, 14, and reaching to the death of Nero, 68; the *Historiae* covering the period from the second consulship of Galba, 68, to the death of Domitian, 96; a treatise *de Moribus et populis Germaniae*, and the *Dialogus de Oratoribus*.

Page 18, l. 3. copyright, the exclusive right given by law for a certain term of years to an author, composer, designer, etc. (or his assignee), to print, publish, and sell copies of his original work.

1. 7. piracy, the infringement of the law of copyright by publishing the works of others without permission.

1. 16. dovetailed, (1) united by a tenon, in form of a dove's tail spread, let into a board or timber; (2) fitted or connected strongly or skilfully; fitted ingeniously.

hitch, a catch, then anything that holds or is hooklike, an impediment, obstacle, or unevenness.

11. 19, 20.

Ut per laeve severos

Effundat junctura ungues.

This is a quotation from Persius, *Sat.* i. 64; it has been translated by Professor Conington, "so that the critical nail runs glibly along even where the parts join." The image is that of a polished surface which the nail would run along without being stopped.

Page 19, l. 1. transfusion, the act of transfusing, or pouring as liquor, from one receptacle to another.

1. 2. Champagne, is a sparkling wine which would lose all its effervescence if it were poured (transfused) from the bottle to a decanter.

Herodotus, the father of Greek History (b. 484 B.C.), was an eminently good story-teller; one of the chief excellencies of

his style is the lively flow of the narrative, much of which is lost in a translation.

Beloe, William (b. 1756, d. 1817), was a miscellaneous writer; besides other works he brought out translations of Coluthus, Alciphron (in which he was assisted by Rev. T. Monro), Herodotus, and Aulus Gellius. Dr. Garnet forms a very different estimate from that of Macaulay of Beloe's version of Herodotus: "Something in his mental condition qualified him admirably for reproducing the limpid simplicity and amiable garrulity of Herodotus; his version, infinitely below the modern standard in point of accuracy, is much above modern performance in point of readableness. Aulus Gellius was another author entirely congenial to him, and his translation, the only one in English, is a distinct addition to our literature. The value of both translations, especially that of Herodotus, is enhanced by a discursive but most entertaining commentary."

ll. 14, 15. the Tour to the Hebrides, etc. *The Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides with Dr. Samuel Johnson*, by James Boswell, was published in 1785. *The Life of Dr. Johnson* did not appear till 1790.

l. 27. Adam Smith, a writer on political economy and philosophy (b. 1723, d. 1790). His best known work is *An Enquiry into the Nature and Cause of the Wealth of Nations*. He insists that labour, not money nor land, is the real source of wealth. This book is the basis of modern political economy.

l. 29. Sir Isaac Newton (b. 1642, d. 1727) was distinguished as a natural philosopher, mathematician, astronomer, member of Parliament, and Warden of the Mint. He achieved many successes in science, and promulgated a new theory of light and colours. His grand discovery of the law of gravitation revolutionized the whole study of science. The Newtonian system was first published (in 1687) in his great work, the *Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica*.

l. 36. *rifacimenti*, plural of the Ital. *rifacimento*, reparation, restoration, re-establishment (Baretti), used here as equivalent to revised versions.

harmonies, literary works that bring together parallel passages of historians respecting the same events, and show their agreement or consistency; said especially respecting the Gospels (Webster).

abridgment, an epitome of a book, made by omitting what the compiler considered to be the less important parts of a large work.

expurgated editions. See p. 17, l. 11, *expurgation*, and note.

Page 20, l. 1. a stage-copy of a play, *i.e.* an actor's copy which is often different from the original, alterations being made to suit the requirements or idiosyncrasies of a particular caste of actors.

ll. 2, 3. Mrs. Siddons's Milton. Mrs. Siddons published, in 1822, *An Abridgment of Paradise Lost*, also *The Story of our First Parents, selected from Paradise Lost*.

ll. 3, 4. Mr. Gilpin's translation of John Bunyan's Pilgrim into modern English. In 1811, Rev. Joshua Gilpin, Rector of Wrockwardine, published an edition of *Pilgrim's Progress*, and on the title-page declared it to be "a new and corrected edition, in which the phraseology of the author is somewhat improved, some of his obscurities elucidated, and some of his redundancies done away."

l. 5. Diatessaron (Greek, διατεσσαρων, *sc.* χορδῶν συμφωνία). (1) In music—the concord or harmonic interval composed of a greater tone, a lesser tone, and greater semitone, now called a fourth; (2) in theology—a harmony of the four Gospels.

l. 10. Should God create another Eve, etc. This quotation is from Milton's *Par. Lost*, ix. 911, etc.

l. 19. Pepys, Samuel (b. 1632, d. 1703), was educated at St. Paul's School and at Magdalene College, Cambridge: he was Secretary to the Admiralty in the reigns of Charles II. and James II. In 1690, he published *Memoirs relating to the state of the Royal Navy of England*. He was well informed in history, painting, sculpture, architecture, etc.: his Diary, a record of his personal doings and sayings from January 1, 1660, to May 31, 1669, is a most curious and instructive picture of the court and times of Charles II. It was written in shorthand and lay undeciphered for more than a century. It was first deciphered and published by Lord Braybrooke in 1825.

l. 20. Mrs. Hutchinson (b. 1620, d. 1659) was the wife of Colonel Hutchinson, the governor of Nottingham Castle in the civil war of the seventeenth century. She wrote the memoirs of his life, one of the most admirable biographies in our literature; but it was not published till 1806.

l. 22. Hume, David (b. 1711, d. 1776), historian, philosopher, and miscellaneous writer, wrote a *Treatise of Human Nature*; *Essays, Moral, Political, and Literary*; *Enquiry concerning the Principles of Morals*; and also the *History of England*, the first part of which appeared in 1754 and the last in 1761.

Page 21, l. 1. race (Fr. *race*, Pr. Sp. and Pg. *raza*, It. *razza*, from O.H.G. *reiza*, line; not from Lat. *radix*, root, though in some of its senses influenced by it. (1) The descendants of a common stock; a family, tribe, nation, breed, etc. (2) (Bot.) a marked variety which may be propagated by seed. (3) Peculiar

flavour, taste or strength of wine; hence characteristic flavour, smack. (4) Hence a characteristic quality or disposition (Skeat).

1. 13. Eclipse was a chestnut horse by Marske out of Spiletta, foaled on 1st April, 1764: on the same day a remarkable eclipse of the sun occurred, hence his name. He was bred by the Duke of Cumberland, after whose decease he was bought by a Mr. Wildman, and subsequently by Mr. D. O'Kelly. His racing career began at five years of age, viz., on the 3rd May, 1769, at Epsom, and ended at Newmarket on 4th October, 1770. He ran or walked over eighteen races and was never beaten. It was in his first race that Mr. D. O'Kelly took the odds to a large amount before the start for the second heat that he would place the horses. When called upon to declare he uttered the exclamation, which the event verified, "Eclipse first, the rest nowhere" (see *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Horse").

1. 23, 24. missed his only chance of immortality by not being alive when the *Dunciad* was written; see Boswell, p. 202 (sub anno 1769). "Johnson repeated to us in his forcible, melodious manner the concluding lines of the *Dunciad*. While he was talking loudly in praise of those lines, one of the company ventured to say, 'Too fine for such a poem; a poem on what?' Johnson (with a disdainful air), 'Why, on dunces! It was worth while being a dunce then. Ah, sir, hadst thou lived in those days! It is not worth while being a dunce now, when there are no wits.'" The *Dunciad* is a poetical satire in heroic verse by Alexander Pope; the first three books appeared in May, 1728, the fourth in 1742. In answer to this passage of Macaulay, Dr. Birkbeck Hill asks, "Are all Johnson's hasty utterances to be taken as so many deliberate judgments? Did he really look upon Fielding as a blockhead, a barren rascal? or upon Reynolds as a man too far gone in wine?"

1. 24. Beauclerk, Topham, the only son of Lord Sidney Beauclerk, the third son of the first Duke of St. Albans, and was, therefore, great-grandson of Charles II. and Nell Gwynne; he was educated at Trinity College, Oxford. His character seems to have been rather loose: he made the acquaintance of Johnson in 1752, who found considerable pleasure in his gay spirits and keen satire. Johnson on one occasion said to him, "Thy body is all vice and thy mind all virtue" (see Boswell, p. 81, and *passim*). For other estimates of his character see *English Men of Letters, Johnson*, by Leslie Stephen, p. 73, etc.; also *Doctor Johnson, His Friends and His Critics*, by Dr. Birkbeck Hill, p. 280, etc. Carlyle describes him as "the chivalrous Topham Beauclerk, with his sharp wit and gallant, courtly ways."

1. 25. bore. Murray's *Dictionary* gives the following meanings of this word: (1) The malady of *ennui*, supposed to be specifically "French," as "the spleen" was supposed to be English;

(a) fit of *ennui* or sulks; a dull time; (b) one who suffers from "bore" or *ennui*, or affects lack of interest in anything; (2) a thing which causes bore or *ennui*; an annoyance, a nuisance; (3) a tiresome or uncongenial person; one who wearies or worries.

ll. 24, 25. Beauclerk used his name as a proverbial expression for a bore. Macaulay (as Dr. Birkbeck Hill points out) was probably thinking of the following passage in a letter from Beauclerk to the Earl of Charlemont: "We cannot do without you. If you do not come here, I will bring all the club over to Ireland to live with you, and that will drive you here in your own defence. Johnson shall spoil your books, Goldsmith pull your flowers, and Boswell talk to you; stay there if you can."

ll. 30, 31. "binding it as a crown unto him," an adaptation of *Job*, xxxi. 36, "Surely I would take it upon my shoulder and bind it as a crown to me."

l. 32. He exhibited himself, at the Shakspeare Jubilee, etc. This was in the autumn of 1769; see Boswell, p. 196.

l. 34. Corsica Boswell. In consequence of a visit to Corsica, Boswell was filled with enthusiasm for the cause of the brave islanders: in 1768 he published "an account of Corsica, with the journal of a tour to that island" (see Boswell, p. 188, 193, etc.; sub anno 1767).

l. 36. Paoli, Pascal, General of the Corsicans, after his countrymen were overpowered by France, sought an asylum in Great Britain, and it was Boswell's duty as well as his pleasure to attend much on him: hence his assumption of the name Paoli Boswell; see Boswell, p. 197 and note, sub anno 1767).

Page 22, ll. 7, 8. Tom Paine (b. 1737, d. 1809), a miscellaneous writer, published among other works, *Common Sense*, *The American Crisis*, *The Rights of Man*, and *The Age of Reason*.

ll. 20, 21. took a hair of the dog that had bitten him. Dr. Brewer explains this phrase as follows: "In Scotland it is a popular belief that a few hairs of the dog that bit you applied to the wound will prevent evil consequences: *similia similibus curantur*." Cf.:

"Take the hair, it is well written,  
Of the dog by which you're bitten;  
Work off one wine by his brother,  
And one labour with another, ...  
Cook with cook, and strife with strife;  
Business with business, wife with wife."

l. 22. maudlin, sickly sentimental. The original sense was "shedding tears of penitence," like Mary Magdalene, who was taken as the type of sorrowing penitence (Skeat).

11, 26, 27. how tipsy he was at Lady Cork's, *i.e.* Miss Monckton's, afterwards the Countess of Cork (see Boswell, p. 568; sub anno 1781).

11, 28, 29. how impertinent he was to the Duchess of Argyle, etc.; see *Tour to the Hebrides*, quoted by Croker, Vol. III., p. 51.

1. 30. "Colonel Macleod of Talisker, an officer in the Dutch Service, a very genteel man, and a faithful branch of the family." Such is Boswell's description of this member of the Macleod family of Rasay in Skye. Macaulay probably refers to the discussion about the assiduity of the Scottish clergy, which ended thus—Boswell, "But, sir, we are not contending for the superior learning of our clergy, but for their superior assiduity." He (Col. Macleod) bore us down again, with thundering against their ignorance, and said to me, "I see you have not been well taught; for you have not charity." He had been in some measure forced into this warmth by the exulting air which I assumed. (See *Tour to the Hebrides*, September 23.)

1. 36. *hypochondriac whimsies*, caprices produced by *hypochondria*. *Whimsy*, a variation of whim: a freak, or capricious notion of "men's follies, whimseys and inconstancy," Swift. "Mistaking the whimseys of a feverish brain for the calm revelation of truth," Bancroft. (Webster.) Skeat says the word is akin to Norwegian *Kvima*, Icel. *kvima*, Norweg. *Kvimsa*, Dan. *vimse*, all of which words imply unsteady, wavering, fluttering motion. *Hypochondria* is a mental disorder, inducing gloominess and melancholy. Named from the spleen, which was supposed to cause hypochondria, and is situate under the cartilage of the breastbone. Lat. *hypochondria*, sub. plur., the parts beneath the breastbone; Greek, *ὑποχόνδρια*, plur. sub., the same; Greek, *ὑπό* under, and *χόνδρος*, a corn, grain, groat, gristle, and especially the cartilage of the breastbone (Skeat).

Page 23, l. 10. Goldsmith, Oliver (b. 1728, d. 1774), poet, novelist, and essayist, wrote *The Vicar of Wakefield*, *The Citizen of the World*, *Essays*, *The Bee*, *The Traveller*, *The Deserted Village*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *The Good-Natured Man*, and many other works.

1. 11. by one of his contemporaries, *viz.*, Horace Walpole.

1. 12. by another, *viz.*, Garrick. Boswell, in his profound adoration of Johnson, was devoured with jealousy of Goldsmith, yet his love of truth and accuracy compelled him to make this admission, "It has been generally circulated and believed that he (Goldsmith) was a mere fool in conversation, but, in truth, this has been greatly exaggerated." Probably Boswell is right; Goldsmith often blundered in conversation, went on without knowing how he should come off, and displayed ignorance when trying "to get in and shine," but Horace Walpole goes too far when he calls him an "inspired idiot."

1. 14. *La Fontaine*, Jean de (b. 1621, d. 1695), the French fabulist, lived in Paris for thirty-five years, residing successively with the Duchesses of Bouillon and Orléans, Madame de Sablière, and Madame d'Hervast, and was the intimate friend of Molière, Boileau, Racine, and all the first wits of the French capital, by whom he was beloved for the candour and simplicity of his character. Yet, with this simplicity, which amounted almost to stupidity, he united the talent of making severe, shrewd, and sensible observations on human life, and of decorating his verse with touches of exquisite grace and delicacy. Besides his *Tales* and *Fables*, *La Fontaine* was author of *Les Amours de Psyche*, *Anacréontiques*, two comedies, etc.

1. 15. *Hierocles*, the author of a work entitled *φιλιστορες*, 'the friends of history,' which apparently contained marvellous stories of men and animals. This is the name also of a Greek author who, in the fifth century, hunted up and compiled jokes; after a life-long labour he collected as many as twenty-eight in a book entitled *φιλόγελως*, sometimes spoken of as the Hieroclean Legacy. The latter is probably the work to which Macaulay refers, for "A Free Translation of the Jests of Hierocles, with an Introduction," was written for the *Gentleman's Magazine* in 1741, and from internal evidence is attributed to Dr. Johnson.

1. 21. officiousness, undue forwardness, a readiness to intermeddle with affairs in which one has no concern.

inquisitiveness, a disposition to gain information by questioning, frequently used of improper curiosity about other people's affairs.

1. 22. effrontery, impudence in transgressing the bounds of duty or decorum; shameless assurance.

toad-eating, fawning obsequiousness (formerly toad-eater was the name of mountebanks' assistants, who would pretend to swallow toads—vulgarly supposed to be poisonous—in order that their masters might deceive the public into believing that they had effected a cure).

1. 24. *Paul Pry*, the hero of a comedy by John Poole, who is described as "one of those idle, meddling fellows, who, having no employment themselves, are perpetually interfering in other people's affairs." The same author wrote *Little Pedlington and the Pedlingtonians* (1839).

1. 32. *Tacitus*, see p. 17, l. 36, *supra*, and note.

*Clarendon*, Edward Hyde, Earl of (b. 1608, d. 1674), a staunch supporter of the royalist cause during the Civil War and after the Restoration. His *History of the Rebellion*, long regarded as a first-rate historical authority, has been proved to be not only a partial but a very inaccurate and untrustworthy narrative.

1. 33. *Alfieri*, Vittorio (b. 1749, d. 1803), an Italian dramatist. He published his first drama, *Cleopatra*, in 1775. Thenceforward he was a laborious student and dramatic author; he composed fourteen tragedies in seven years, studied Latin, and at the age of 48 made himself master of Greek. Among his tragedies are *Saul*, *Philip II.*, *Antigone*, *Virginia*, *Agamemnon*, *Mary Stuart*, etc. He wrote also several poems and prose treatises.

Page 24, l. 3. His dissertations on hereditary gentility; see Boswell, p. 169, etc. (sub anno 1765).

1. 4. on the slave-trade; see Boswell, p. 432 (sub anno 1777).  
on the entailing of landed estates; see Boswell, p. 325 (sub anno 1776).

1. 6, sophistical, characteristic of a sophist; fallaciously subtle in argument. (Gr. *σοφιστής*, a teacher of arts and sciences for money; then one that made a false display of learning, a perverter or opposer of truth; then one that made the worse appear the better cause, a quibbler, a cheat.)

11. 10, 11. the intellectual capacity of a boy of fifteen. Macaulay is very fond of this comparison, so much so that his "school-boy" has become proverbial. Cf. p. 11, l. 1, "If a school-boy under our care were to utter them," etc.; p. 2, l. 38, "Every school-girl knows the lines."

1. 13. ranting, using violent language. Cf. *Hamlet*, v. i. 307,

"Nay, an thou'lt mouth,  
I'll rant as well as thou."

twaddling, tattling, talking unmeaningly. *Twaddle* was formerly written *twattle*: "No gloosing fable I twattle" (Stanyhurst, tr. of *Aen.* II., ed. Arber, p. 46). A collateral form of *tattle* (see Skeat).

1. 19. *dunce*, a stupid person. (Geographical): A proper name, originally in the phrase "a Duns man." The word was introduced by the Thomists, or disciples of Thomas Aquinas, in ridicule of the Scotists, or disciples of John Duns Scotus, school-man, died A.D. 1308. The Scotch claim him as a native of *Dunse* in Berwickshire; others derive his name from *Dunstan*, not far from Alnwick, Northumberland. Either way, *Duns* is the name of a place, and the word is English (Skeat).

parasite, one that frequents another's table, a hanger-on. Fr. *parasite*, 'a parasite, a trencher-friend, smell-feast' (Cotgrave). Lat. *parasitus*, Gr. *παράσιτος*, eating beside another at his table, a parasite, toad-eater. Gr. *παρά*, beside, and *σιτός*, wheat, corn, grain, flour, bread, food, a word of unknown origin (Skeat).



l. 20. *coxccomb* [= *cockscomb*]: (1) a cap worn by a professional fool, like a cock's comb in shape and colour (obs.); (2) a ludicrous appellation for the head (obs.); (3) a fool, simpleton (obs.), now a foolish, conceited, showy person, vain of his accomplishments, appearance, or dress; a fop; "a superficial pretender to knowledge or accomplishments" (J.). (*Murray's Dict.*)

l. 25. *Justice Shallow*, a country justice in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, and in the second part of *King Henry IV.* he talks a great deal of tautological nonsense, and Sir John Falstaff compares him to "a man made after supper of a cheese-paring."

*Dr. Caius*, a French physician in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, who speaks in broken or "clipped" English.

l. 26. *Fluellen* (perhaps a corruption of *Llewellyn*), a pedantic Welsh captain in *Henry V.*, who loves to hear himself discourse about "Alexander the Pig," and how "Fortune is painted plind, with a muffler afore her eyes, to signify to you that Fortune is plind," etc.

l. 28. *Rousseau*, Jean Jacques (b. 1712, d. 1778). A French philosopher and miscellaneous writer; his chief works are *Julie ou la Nouvelle Héloïse*; *Emile ou de l'Éducation*; *Contrat Social*; *Confessions*; and many Essays and Letters.

l. 29. *Lord Byron* (b. 1788, d. 1824), a poet, wrote *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*, *Don Juan*, *The Giaour*, *The Bride of Abydos*, *Beppo*, *Manfred*, *Mazeppa*, and many other poems. Macaulay has written an Essay on Moore's *Life of Lord Byron*, see p. 141, etc., Longman's Popular Edition.

ll. 35, 36. *Cæsar Borgia* (d. 1507), was the son of Pope Alexander VI.; he was made cardinal immediately after the election of his father to the papal chair. In 1498 he resigned the dignity of cardinal, and became a soldier. He made himself master of the Romagna; and subsequently served in the army of the King of Navarre. He was one of the most crafty, cruel, and corrupt men of that corrupt age. No crime was too foul for him to commit or be suspected of. He was charged with the murder of his elder brother, Giovanni, Duke of Gandia, and of Alfonso, the husband of his sister Lucrezia; with plotting with his father the murder of Cardinal Corneto by poison, and with incest with his sister. In his wars he had whole garrisons massacred, and he carried off bands of women to gratify his passion.

l. 36. *Danton*, George Jacques (b. 1759, d. 1794), was an advocate by profession, and became one of the most active of the leaders of the French Revolution. He led the attack upon the Tuilleries on the night of the 9th August, 1792. Again, when news of the capture of Longwy, and the surrender of Verdun to the Prussians, filled Paris with consternation and dismay, it was suggested that the Assembly and Authorities should quit the

city and retire behind the Loire, but Danton rose and declared that in order to save the country "it was necessary to strike the royalists with terror." These words of his prompted the massacres of September. Subsequently he became one of the most influential members of the terrible "Committee of Public Safety." But in 1794 he, with Camille Desmoulins, Fabre d'Eglantine, Hérault de Séchelle, and others, was arrested by the orders of Robespierre, and after a mock trial they all were condemned to the guillotine.

Page 25, l. 1. Alnaschar. See "The History of the Barber's fifth Brother" in the *Arabian Nights*. Addison gives a shorter account of the Dream in *Spectator* No. 535.

Malvolio, the pompous major-domo of Olivia in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, who is led to imagine that his mistress is in love with him.

ll. 9, 10. the Palace of Truth, an enchanted palace in which every one is compelled to speak the truth, was first described by Madame de Genlis; the tale has been dramatized by Gilbert.

l. 26. his son, Sir Alexander Boswell, is thus described by Mr. Croker, "He was a high-spirited, clever, and amiable gentleman, and, like his father, of a frank and social disposition; but it is said that he did not relish the recollection of our author's devotion to Dr. Johnson; like old Auchinleck, he seemed to think it a kind of derogation. He was created a baronet in 1821, and was unfortunately killed in a duel arising from a political dispute, near Edinburgh, on 26th March, 1822, by Mr. Stuart of Duncarn" (Croker's *Boswell*, III. 265, n.). See also Boswell, p. 238, n.

ll. 31, 33. Puritan casuists who took arms by the authority of the king against his person. *Casuist* (Fr. *casuiste*, Sp. *casuista*, It. *casista*, from Lat. *casus*, a case). A theologian or other person who studies and resolves cases of conscience, or doubtful questions regarding duty and conduct (often with a sinister signification); cf. Macaulay's *English History*, iv. 566, "Casuists willing and competent to soothe his conscience with sophisms." Of the Puritan casuists, Clarendon writes, "They not only declared that they fought for the king, but that the raising and maintaining soldiers for their own army would be an acceptable service for the king, parliament, and kingdom."

Page 26, l. 24. Churchill, Rev. Charles (b. 1731, d. 1764), a divine and poet. His chief works are: *The Rosciad, Night, The Ghost*, in which he assailed Dr. Johnson (see Boswell, p. 137, sub anno 1763), *The Prophecy of Famine*, etc. For Johnson's criticism of Churchill's poetry, see Boswell, p. 141 (sub anno 1763).

Kenrick, William, LL.D. of a Scotch University, made a virulent attack on Johnson's *Shakespeare* in 1765 (see Boswell, p. 171). He attacked Johnson again in 1768, in a pamphlet entitled, "An Epistle to James Boswell, Esq., occasioned by his having transmitted the moral writings of Samuel Johnson to Pascal Paoli, General of the Corsicans" (see Boswell, p. 194). He died in 1779.

1. 29. scrofula, a disease characterized by chronic swellings of the glands; called the "king's evil," because it was supposed that the touch of a king could cure it. Johnson always bore the scars of this disease, which deprived him of the sight of one eye, and which made his parents bring him to London to be touched by Queen Anne.

St. Vitus's dance, once widely prevalent in Germany and the low countries, was a "dancing mania," so called from the supposed power of St. Vitus over nervous and hysterical affections (Brewer).

Page 27, l. 3. old Mr. Levett; see Boswell, p. 52 (sub anno 1743), p. 173 (sub anno 1766), p. 250 (sub anno 1773), p. 439 (sub anno 1778), p. 580 (sub anno 1782).

Mrs. Williams; see Boswell, p. 76 (sub anno 1752), p. 250 (sub anno 1773), p. 262 (sub anno 1773), p. 439 (sub anno 1778), and in many other places.

1. 4. Hodge; see Boswell, p. 601 (sub anno 1783).

Frank; see Boswell, p. 250 (sub anno 1773), and p. 194 (sub anno 1768), etc.

1. 11. That celebrated club, or the Literary Club; see Boswell, p. 164 (sub anno 1763).

1. 15. Reynolds, Sir Joshua, the greatest English portrait painter, and first President of the Royal Academy (b. 1723, d. 1792). His works are very numerous, about 700 having been engraved. The National Gallery possesses twenty-three of his works, of which we may mention the portraits of Admiral Keppel, Lord Heathfield, Lord Ligonier, Dr. Johnson, and himself; and also "The Age of Innocence" and "Holy Family," and the "Infant Samuel."

the Wartons. Dr. Joseph Warton (b. 1722, d. 1800), educated at Winchester School and Oriel College, Oxford, was Headmaster of Winchester for thirty years. He wrote an *Essay on the Writings and Genius of Pope*, and translations from Virgil. Thomas Warton, brother of the preceding (b. 1728, d. 1790), was educated at Winchester School and Trinity College, Oxford. He wrote *Triumph of Isis*, *Observations on Spenser's Fairy Queen*, and *History of English Poetry*. He held the Professorship of Poetry at Oxford for ten years, and succeeded Whitehead as Poet-Laureate.

1. 16. Burke, Edmund (b. 1729, d. 1797), was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, entered the Middle Temple, and, coming to London in 1750, began literary work. He wrote *A Vindication of Natural Society* (1756), *A Philosophical Inquiry into the Origin of our Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful* (1757). In 1758 he projected the *Annual Register*, and for some years wrote the whole of it. In 1765 he became Lord Rockingham's private secretary, and entered Parliament as member for Wendover. He took a leading part in debate, and distinguished himself by his speeches on the American question, on Catholic emancipation, on economical reform, and on the prosecution of Warren Hastings. He subsequently became Paymaster of the Forces and Privy Councillor. He retired from Parliament in 1794. Other writings of his are: *Reflections on the French Revolution* (1790), *Letters on a Regicide Peace* (1796-97), *Letters to a Noble Lord* (1796).

1. 17. Goldsmith; see *supra*, p. 23, l. 10, and note.

Gerard Hamilton (b. 1729, d. 1796) was elected M.P. for Petersfield in 1754, and in the following year delivered the first and almost only speech he ever made in the British Parliament, from which he derived the nickname of "Single-Speech Hamilton" (see Macaulay's *Essay on Chatham*, p. 304, Longman's Popular Edition).

1. 18. Gibbon; see *supra*, p. 7, l. 8, and note.

Beauclerk; see *supra*, p. 21, l. 24, and note.

Langton, Bennet (b. 1737, d. 1801), was educated at Trinity College, Oxford. He was remarkable for his knowledge of Greek, and seems at one time of his life to have practised engineering as a profession. He made the acquaintance of Johnson in 1752 (see *Boswell*, p. 81). On Dr. Johnson's death he succeeded him as Professor of Ancient Literature in the Royal Academy. He wrote for *The Idler*, was an original member of the Literary Club, and edited Johnson's Latin verses. Frequent mention of him is made by Boswell. (See also *English Men of Letters*, *Johnson*, p. 71, etc., by Leslie Stephen; and *Doctor Johnson, his Friends and Critics*, p. 248, etc., by Dr. Birkbeck Hill.)

1. 19. Lord Stowell, William Scott (b. 1745, d. 1836), was educated at Newcastle Grammar School and Corpus Christi College, Oxford. He was tutor of University College from 1765 to 1776. He then turned his great talents to the study of law. In course of time he became Advocate-General, Judge of the Consistory Court, Judge of the High Court of Admiralty, and a Privy Councillor. In 1790, he was M.P. for Downton, and the next year was unanimously elected Member for the University of Oxford. His decisions on questions of international law have

passed into precedents equal, if not superior, in authority to those of Grotius, Puffendorf, Vattel, etc.

1. 19. Sir William Jones (b. 1746). See *supra*, p. 14, l. 21, and note.

Windham. The Right Hon. William Windham (b. 1750, d. 1810) of Felbrigg, Norfolk, was a member of the Literary Club: he kept a diary in which is an account of the last few days of Johnson's life (see Croker's edition of *Boswell*, Vol v., pp. 326-333). Windham was M.P. for Norwich, and was sent to Ireland as secretary to Lord Northington: he took part in the impeachment of Warren Hastings, was Secretary at War under Pitt, and again, in 1806, was Secretary at War, and also for the Colonies in "the Administration of all the Talents."

1. 29. David Garrick (b. 1716) arrived in London with Johnson in March, 1736. See p. 8, l. 27, *supra*, and note.

1. 30. his fellow-townsmen. David Garrick was born at Hereford while his father, Captain Peter Garrick, was on a recruiting errand in that city; but his family generally resided at Lichfield, and David received his education there, partly at the Grammar School and partly under Dr. Johnson.

1. 31, etc. With this passage compare Macaulay's account of "Samuel Johnson," in his *Miscellaneous Writings and Speeches* (Longman's Popular Edition, p. 275, etc.).

Page 28, l. 2, etc. With this passage compare Lord Mahon's *History of England*, Vol. II., p. 221: "During the reigns of William, of Anne, and of George the First, till 1721, when Walpole became Prime Minister, the Whigs and Tories vied with each other in the encouragement of learned and literary men. Whenever a writer showed signs of genius, either party to which his principles might incline him was eager to hail him as a friend. The most distinguished society and the most favourable opportunities were thrown open to him. Places and pensions were showered down in lavish profusion; those who wished only to pursue their studies had the means afforded them for learned leisure, while more ambitious spirits were pushed forward in Parliament or in diplomacy. In short, though the Sovereign was never an Augustus, almost every Minister was a Mæcenas. Newton became Master of the Mint; Locke was a Commissioner of Appeals; Steele was a Commissioner of Stamps; Stepney, Prior, and Gay were employed in lucrative and important embassies. It was a slight piece of humour at his outset and as his introduction—*The City and Country Mouse*—that brought forth a mountain of honours to Montague, afterwards Earl of Halifax, and First Lord of the Treasury. When Parnell first came to Court, Lord Treasurer Oxford passed through the crowd of nobles, leaving them all unnoticed, to greet and welcome the

poet. "I value myself," says Swift, "upon making the Ministry desire to be acquainted with Parnell, and not Parnell with the Ministry." Swift himself became Dean of St. Patrick's, and but for the Queen's dislike would have been Bishop of Hereford. Pope, as a Roman Catholic, was debarred from all places of honour or emolument, yet Secretary Craggs offered him a pension of £300 a year, not to be known by the public, and to be paid from the Secret Service Money. In 1714 General Stanhope carried a Bill, providing a most liberal reward for the discovery of the longitudes. Addison became Secretary of State. Tickell was Secretary in Ireland. Several rich sinecures were bestowed on Congreve and Rowe, on Hughes and Ambrose Philips."

1. 3. Congreve, William (b. 1672, d. 1729), a poet and dramatist, began life as a student at the Middle Temple, but abandoned the law for literature. His first comedy—*The Old Bachelor*—was produced in 1693: this brought him not only great reputation, but also a Commissionership in the Hackney Coach Office, given him by the Earl of Halifax. Other works by him are *Love for Love*, *The Double Dealer*, *The Mourning Bride*, *The Way of the World*, and *Poems*. See Thackeray's *English Humorists*, Johnson's *Lives of the Poets*, and Macaulay's *Essays*.

Addison, Joseph (b. 1672, d. 1719), poet and essayist, was educated at the Charter House and Queen's College, Oxford. In 1694, he wrote a complimentary poem on one of the campaigns of William III.; for this he received a pension of £300 a year to enable him to travel. In 1704 he wrote *The Campaign*, to celebrate the victory of Blenheim; for this he was appointed Commissioner of Appeals. He contributed articles to *The Tatler*, *The Spectator*, and *The Guardian*, and, besides many other works, he wrote a tragedy entitled *Cato*. See Thackeray's *Humorists* and Macaulay's *Essays*.

1. 18. Smith ... Hippolytus and Phædra. Edmund Smith (b. 1668, d. 1710), a poet, wrote *Phædra*, which Oldisworth describes as "a consummate tragedy." The play was dedicated to Halifax, "who expected the author with his book, and had prepared to reward him with a place of three hundred pounds a year. Smith, by pride or caprice, or indolence or bashfulness, neglected to attend him, though doubtless warned and pressed by his friends, and at last missed his reward by not going to solicit it" (Johnson's *Lives of the Poets*). Phædra, in classical mythology, was the second wife of Theseus of Athens, and fell in love with her husband's son, Hippolytus. Other works by Smith were a translation of Pindar, and of the *Sublime* of Longinus. His real name was Edmund Neale, but through the misfortunes and death of his father, he was left, when very young, to be brought up by his father's sister, Mrs. Smith, and took her name.

1. 20. Rowe, Nicholas (b. 1673, d. 1718), poet-laureate and dramatist, wrote *The Ambitious Stepmother*, *Tamerlane*, *The Fair Penitent*, *Ulysses*, *The Royal Convert*, *The Biter*, *Jane Shore*, *Lady Jane Grey*, and a translation of Lucan's *Pharsalia*. Johnson, in his *Lives of the Poets*, tells us that "At the accession of King George, he (Rowe) was made Poet-Laureate; I am afraid by the ejection of poor Nahum Tate, who (1716) died in the Mint, where he was forced to seek shelter by extreme poverty. He was made likewise one of the Land-Surveyors of the Customs of the Port of London. The Prince of Wales chose him Clerk of his Council, and the Lord-Chancellor, Parker, as soon as he received the seals, appointed him, unasked, Secretary of the Presentations. Such an accumulation of employments undoubtedly produced a very considerable revenue."

1. 23. Hughes, John (b. 1677, d. 1720), poet and essayist, published the *Peace of Ryswick*, *The Court of Neptune*, *The House of Nassau*, paraphrases and translations from Horace, Fontenelle, Molière, and Pindar; he contributed papers to the *Tatler*, *Spectator*, and *Guardian*, and produced two dramas—*Calypso and Telemachus* and *Apollo and Daphne*. Johnson, in the *Lives of the Poets*, tells us that "He (Hughes) had a place in the Office of Ordnance; and was Secretary to several Commissions for purchasing lands necessary to secure the royal docks at Chatham and Portsmouth"; and again, "Hughes had hitherto suffered the mortification of a narrow fortune, but in 1717 the Lord-Chancellor Cowper set him at ease by making him Secretary to the Commissions of the Peace."

11. 24, 25. Ambrose Philips (b. 1671, d. 1749), poet and dramatist, published *Pastorals* (ridiculed by Pope, who nicknamed him "Namby Pamby"), *A Poetical Letter from Copenhagen*, *Persian Tales*, *The Distrest Mother*, *The Briton*, and *Poems*; he was also editor for some time of the *Freethinker*. Johnson, in his *Lives of the Poets*, says that Dr. Boulter, Primate of Ireland, "knowing Philips to be slenderly supported, took him to Ireland as partaker of his fortune; and making him his secretary, added such preferments as enabled him to represent the County of Armagh in the Irish parliament. In December, 1726, he was made Secretary to the Lord Chancellor; and in August, 1733, became Judge of the Prerogative Court."

1. 26. Locke, John (b. 1632, d. 1704), wrote three *Letters concerning Toleration*, *Essay concerning Human Understanding*, *Two Treatises of Government*, *Thoughts concerning Education*, and *The Reasonableness of Christianity*. He was, indeed, one of our most eminent philosophers and upholders of both civil and religious liberty. He might be called the interpreter of the Revolution of 1688-9. He held several government appointments; in 1672, when Lord Shaftesbury was appointed Lord

Chancellor, he made Locke Secretary of Presentations, and, at a later period, Secretary to the Board of Trade. When Shaftesbury retired to Holland, Locke went with him; but at the Revolution he returned to England, and was made a Commissioner of Appeals, and, in 1695, a Commissioner of Trade and Plantations.

l. 27. Newton; see p. 19, l. 29, *supra*, and note.

Stepney, George (b. 1663, d. 1707), a poet of whom Johnson says, "It is reported that the juvenile compositions of Stepney made grey authors blush"; he translated parts of Juvenal, but "he is a very licentious translator." "His qualifications recommended him to many foreign employments, so that his time seems to have been spent in negotiations. In 1692, he was sent Envoy to the Elector of Brandenburg; in 1693 to the Imperial Court; in 1694 to the Elector of Saxony; in 1696 to the Electors of Mentz and Cologne, and the Congress of Francfort; in 1698, a second time to Brandenburg; in 1699, to the King of Poland; in 1701, again to the Emperor; and 1706, to the States General. In 1697, he was made one of the Commissioners of Trade" (Johnson's *Lives of the Poets*).

l. 28. Prior, Matthew (b. 1664, d. 1721), a poet, published (with Mr. Montague, afterwards Lord Halifax), *The City Mouse and Country Mouse* in 1687, and in 1700 the *Carmen Seculare*; he was sent in 1691 to the Congress at the Hague as Secretary to the Embassy; in 1697 he was Secretary to another Embassy at the treaty of Ryswick, and next year had the same office at the Court of France. In 1701 he was chosen M.P. for East Grinstead. In 1710 he was sent privately to Paris with propositions of peace (see Johnson's *Lives of the Poets*, and Thackeray's *Humorists*).

l. 29. Gay, John (b. 1688, died 1732), poet and dramatist, wrote *Rural Sports*, *The Shepherd's Week*, *The Wife of Bath*, *Beggar's Opera*, *What d'ye Call it*, *Three Hours after Marriage*, (probably in conjunction with Pope and Arbuthnot), *The Captives*. Johnson, in his *Lives of the Poets*, tells us that Gay "was sent to London in his youth and placed apprentice to a silk-mercator ... The Duchess of Monmouth ... in 1712 took Gay into her service as secretary ... In the last year of Queen Anne's life Gay was made Secretary to the Earl of Clarendon, Ambassador to the Court of Hanover."

ll. 31-34. It was to a poem on the Death of Charles the Second ... Montague ... Exchequer. Johnson, in his *Lives of the Poets*, says, "In 1685 his (Montague's) verses on the death of King Charles made such an impression on the Earl of Dorset that he was invited to town and introduced by that universal patron to the other wits. In 1687 he joined with Prior in the *City Mouse and the Country Mouse*, a burlesque of Dryden's *Hind and*



*Panther* ... After this he rose fast into honours and employments, being made one of the Commissioners of the Treasury, and called to the Privy Council. In 1694 he became Chancellor of the Exchequer; and the next year engaged in the great attempt of the recoinage, which was in two years happily completed. In 1696 he projected the general fund, and raised the credit of the Exchequer, and after enquiry concerning a grant of Irish crown lands it was determined by a vote of the Commons that Charles Montague, Esquire, had deserved his Majesty's favour. In 1698, being advanced to the First Commission of the Treasury, he was appointed one of the Regency in the king's absence; the next year he was made Auditor of the Exchequer, and the year after created Baron Halifax."

II. 34-36. *Swift ... bishop*. Cf. Thackeray's *English Humorists*, "The Queen, and the bishops, and the world were right in mistrusting the religion of that man (Swift)." Jonathan Swift (b. 1667, d. 1745), Dean of St. Patrick's, wrote *The Battle of the Books*, *Tale of a Tub*, *Letters to M. B. Drapier*, *Travels of Lemuel Gulliver*, *A History of the Four last Years of Queen Anne*, and other miscellaneous prose and poetical works. Johnson gives us to understand that the publication of the *Tale of a Tub* (which was shown to the Queen by Archbishop Sharpe and the Duchess of Somerset) debarred Swift from a bishoprick: in another passage of the *Lives of the Poets* Johnson says, "What he (Swift) had suffered was, I suppose, the exclusion from a bishoprick by the remonstrances of Sharpe, whom he describes as "the harmless tool of others' hate," and whom he represents as afterwards "suing for pardon."

I. 36-Page 29, l. 2. *Oxford ... Whigs*. Cf. Johnson's *Lives of the Poets*: "At the ejection of the Whigs, in the end of Queen Anne's reign, Parnell was persuaded to change his party, not without much censure from those whom he forsook, and was received by the new ministry as a valuable reinforcement. When the Earl of Oxford was told that Parnell waited among the crowd in the outer room he went by the persuasion of Swift, with his treasurer's staff in his hand, to enquire for him and to bid him welcome."

*Thomas Parnell* (b. 1679, d. 1718), Archdeacon of Clogher, and poet, wrote a satire on Dennis and Theobald, called the *Life of Zoilus*; other works by him are a *Life of Homer*, *A Fairy Tale*, *Batrachomyomachia* (the Battle of the Frogs and Mice, a translation from Homer), *The Rise of Woman*, and some papers in the *Guardian* entitled "Visions."

I. 2. *Steele, Richard* (b. 1671, d. 1729), dramatist and essayist, produced *The Christian Hero*, *The Funeral, or Grief à la Mode*, *The Tender Husband*, *The Lying Lover*, *The Crisis*, contributions to the *Tatler*, *Guardian*, and *Spectator*, and several other works.

He was "Governor of the Royal Company of Comedians, to which post and to that of Surveyor of the Royal Stables at Hampton Court, and to the Commission of the Peace for Middlesex, and to the honour of Knighthood, Steele had been preferred soon after the accession of George I." (Thackeray's *Humorists*). His reputation as a writer procured him also the place of Commissioner of the Stamp Office, which he resigned on being chosen M.P. for Stockbridge. But "he outlived his places, his schemes, his wife, his income, his health, and almost everything but his kind heart" (Thackeray's *English Humorists*).

1. 4. Arthur Mainwaring (b. 1668 d. 1712) was educated at Shrewsbury Grammar School and Christ Church, Oxford; on leaving Oxford he studied law; he wrote *Tarquin and Tullia*, *The King of Hearts*, *Letters to a Friend in North Britain*, *Hannibal and Hanno*; he edited and wrote almost the whole of the *Medley*. He took a considerable part in politics, and for his services to the Whigs was appointed by Godolphin Auditor of the Imprests in 1705. In 1706 he was elected member for the borough of Preston; he was M.P. for West Looe from 1710 till his death.

customs are duties paid on goods imported into, or exported from a country.

1. 5. *imprest* is money given out for a certain purpose to be afterwards accounted for. "There remaineth in sundrie provicions—as well with certein money delivered *imprest* for the provision of the household, who have not yet accounted for the same." "In provicion £—. In prest £— viz., in the hands of," etc. (Household account of Princess Elizabeth, *Camden Miscell.*, Vol. II.). *In prest*=in ready money. The *Imprest Office* is one of the Admiralty departments in Somerset House, so called from attending to the business of advances to paymasters. Cf. *praesto esse* in Latin.

*Tickell*, etc. Johnson, in *Lives of the Poets*, tells us that Tickell "was, about 1725, made Secretary to the Lords Justices of Ireland, a place of great honour, in which he continued till 1740, when he died on the twenty-third of April at Bath." For further account of Tickell, see p. 13, l. 16, *supra*, and note.

1. 6. *Addison*; see p. 28, l. 3, *supra*, and note. Johnson, in his *Life of Tickell*, says, that "he (Tickell) was intimately united to Mr. Addison, who, when he went to Ireland as secretary to the Lord Sunderland, took him thither and employed him in publick business; and when (1717) afterwards he rose to be Secretary of State, made him Under-Secretary."

1. 8. the magnificent Dorset, etc. Johnson describes him as "the universal patron," and again as "a man whose elegance and judgment were universally confessed, and whose bounty

to the learned and witty was generally known." Dorset wrote *To all you Ladies now at hand, Dorinda*, and other poems marked by easy vigour and sparkling wit. (See *Macaulay's History*, Vol. II., p. 321.)

1. 11. Montague, etc. ; see p. 28, l. 31, *supra*, and note.

1. 14. Harley, Robert (b. 1661, d. 1724), was made Speaker of the House of Commons in 1701, and was Secretary of State in 1708. He became Chancellor of the Exchequer and Commissioner of the Treasury in 1710. He was then advanced to the peerage as Earl of Oxford, and made Lord High Treasurer, which office he retained till a few days before the death of Queen Anne in 1714. After the accession of George I. he was impeached before the House of Commons, and committed to the Tower for two years, then, after a public trial, he was acquitted. After this he retired wholly from public business. He was a liberal encourager of literature, the patron of Pope and Swift, and a great collector of books. The Harleian collection of manuscripts in the British Museum was formed by him and his son Edward who succeeded him.

Bolingbroke, Henry St. John, Viscount (b. 1672, d. 1751), entered Parliament in 1700, became Secretary at War in 1704, resigned his office in 1708, again formed part of the ministry in 1710, and concluded the Peace of Utrecht. In 1712 he was created Viscount Bolingbroke; but, dissatisfied that he was not raised to an earldom, he quarrelled with his colleagues, effected the dismissal of Harley, and himself became Prime Minister. After the death of Queen Anne, the Whigs gained the ascendancy. He, as a Tory, fled to France and became Secretary of State to James Edward, the Pretender. He was impeached and attainted, and it was not till 1723 that he was allowed to return to England. In 1725 his estates were restored to him, but he exerted all his talents against the ministry until the fall of Sir Robert Walpole. He withdrew to France in 1735, but subsequently returned to England and died at Battersea in 1751. He was the intimate friend of Pope, Swift, and other authors of his time; and his own writings are distinguished for their easy, clear, and polished style. He wrote *A Dissertation upon Parties*; *Letters on the Spirit of Patriotism, on the Idea of a Patriot King, and on the State of Parties in the Reign of George I.*; *Letters on the Study of History*, and other works. It was to him that Pope addressed his *Essay on Man*.

ll. 18, 19. a man who cared little for poetry or eloquence, Sir Robert Walpole.

1. 23. Walpole, Sir Robert, Earl of Orford (b. 1676, d. 1745), was Prime Minister of England twice, first from 1715 to 1717; and when Sunderland was forced to resign after the bursting

of the South Sea Bubble, Walpole was again made Premier and held that office practically without a break for twenty-one years. Thackeray, in his *Four Georges*, gives a sketch of this rough, unpolished, fox-hunting statesman. Macaulay describes his character in his essay on *William Pitt, Earl of Chatham*. His detractors dwell upon his inordinate love of power, and his systematic corruption; while his admirers describe him as an able financier, a clever tactician in debate, a most serviceable Minister to the House of Brunswick, and a firm friend of the Protestant succession.

l. 28. Sir Charles Hanbury Williams was the second son of John Hanbury, Esq., a South Sea Director. In 1735 he was chosen member for the County of Monmouth, and was re-elected in 1739 on being appointed Paymaster of the marine regiments, and again at the general election in 1741. He was a devoted follower of Sir Robert Walpole. His various satirical poems against the enemies and successors of that minister are well-known, and must ever be admired for their ease, their spirit, and the wit and humour of their sarcasm. It was said at the time that Sir Charles's poetry had done more in three months to lower and discredit those it was written against, than the *Craftsman* and other abusive papers had been able to effect against Sir Robert in a long series of years (see *Horace Walpole to Mann*, Vol. i., p. 72). On the 20th of October, 1744, he was installed a Knight of the Bath, and in 1746 appointed Minister to the Court of Berlin. He continued in that situation until 9th May, 1749, when he was named envoy extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the same court. Walpole writes of him in 1750, "He is the ruling star of our negotiations. His letters are as much admired as ever his verses were. He has met the ministers of the two angry Empresses and pacified Russian savages and Austrian haughtiness. He is to teach the monarch of Prussia to fetch and carry, unless they happen to treat in iambs or begin to settle the limits of Parnassus instead of those of Silesia." He returned to England and died in 1759. His writings are more remarkable for their ease and vivacity than for their moral tendency.

ll. 29, 30. Thomson's Seasons. James Thomson (b. 1700, d. 1748), poet and dramatist, wrote a series of poems which appeared in the following order: *Winter* (1726); *Summer* (1727); *Spring* (1728); and *Autumn* (1730). Wordsworth describes *The Seasons* as "a work of inspiration; much of it is written from himself and nobly from himself." Hazlitt says, "Thomson is the best of our descriptive poets." Other works by Thomson are *Sophonisha*, *Britannia*, *Liberty*, *Agamemnon*, *Edward and Eleonora*, *Alfred*, *The Castle of Indolence*, etc.

l. 30. Richardson's Pamela. Samuel Richardson (b. 1689, d. 1761), novelist, wrote *Pamela*, *Clarissa Harlowe*, *Sir Charles*

*Grandison. Pamela, or virtue rewarded*, is a series of familiar letters from a beautiful girl to her parents, published in order to cultivate the principles of virtue and religion in the minds of youth of both sexes.

l. 32. *Halifax*; see p. 28, l. 31, *supra*, and note.

Page 30, l. 2. a foolish and unjust war. Walpole was forced into a declaration of war against Spain (October 19th, 1739). This war was afterwards merged into the European war, called the War of the Austrian Succession, which lasted till the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle (1748).

l. 5. St. James's Palace, the only London palace of our sovereigns from the time of the fire at Whitehall in the reign of William III. to the occupation of Buckingham Palace by her present Majesty.

l. 6. Leicester house stood in the N.E. corner of Leicester Square, and was so-called after Robert Sydney, Earl of Leicester, father of Algernon Sydney, of Henry Sydney (the handsome Sydney of De Grammont's *Memoirs*), and of Lady Dorothy (the Saccharissa of the poet Waller). In 1718, when the Prince of Wales (afterwards George II.) had quarrelled with his father, and received the royal command to quit St. James's, he bought Leicester House and made it his London residence. Pennant called it very happily "the pouting place" of princes, for here in Leicester House, when the breach between George II. and his son Frederick, Prince of Wales, became too sore and too wide to heal, the Prince took up his residence as his father had done before him.

ll. 14, 15. *The lean kine ... good ears*; see *Genesis*, ch. xli.

l. 19. *compters*; the name of certain city prisons for debtors, etc., in London, Southwark, Exeter, etc. The two London Compters or Counters are mentioned in the fifteenth century: they were the Poultry Compter, taken down in 1817; and the Bread Street Compter, succeeded in 1555 by the Wood Street Compter; and this in 1791 by the Giltspur Street Compter, closed in 1854. [Akin to French *comptoir*, Lat. *computare*, *computatorium*.]

l. 20. *spunging-houses*, or *sponging-houses*. Bailiff's houses, in which debtors were confined before they were taken to jail, or until they compounded with their creditors.

ll. 21, 22. *the comparative merits of the Common Side in the King's Bench prison and of Mount Scoundrel in the Fleet*. Both King's Bench prison and the Fleet were debtors' prisons. The Fleet Prison was under the direction of the Chancellor and Judges of the Common Pleas. The King's Bench Prison was under the direction of the Chief Justice and other Judges of that Bench. Stow in his *Survey of London* describes the King's Bench prison

as "seated near St. George's church (in Southwark), and generally thronged with debtors; a prison wherein great abuses are committed by the Marshall or keeper and his underlings"; and Smollett writes as follows in his description of this place, "At the further end of the street, on the right hand, is a little paved court leading to a separate building, consisting of twelve large apartments called state rooms, well furnished and fitted up for the reception of the better sort of Crown prisoners, and on the other side of the street, facing a separate direction of ground, called *the common side*, is a range of rooms occupied by persons of the lowest order, who share the profits of a begging box, and are maintained by the practice, and some established funds of charity." The Fleet was on Ludgate Hill, and likewise was divided into two sides, a master's side and a common side; and in *The Book of Days* we find *Mount Scoundrel* described as "wretched quarters on the common side at the top of the building, where no one stayed if he could avoid it; hence this place is first empty, and the chamberlain commonly shows this to advance his price upon you for a better." (For further account of these places see *Old and New London*, by Walter Thornbury, published by Cassell & Co., Vol. vi., p. 68; and *The Book of Days*, edited by R. Chambers, pp. 466 to 469.)

1. 30. *Grub Street*; a London street existing still, but known as *Milton Street*; it is in the parish of St. Giles, Cripplegate, and runs from Fore Street to Chiswell Street. Johnson explains it "as the name of a street in London much inhabited by writers of small histories, dictionaries, and temporary poems."

*St. George's Fields*. An open space of great extent, on the Lambeth and Southwark side of the Thames, and so called from the adjoining church of St. George the Martyr in Southwark. "The Rules" of King's Bench Prison included all *St. George's Fields*.

1. 31. *the alleys behind St. Martin's church*, i.e. the collegiate church and sanctuary of St. Martin's-le-Grand, which used to stand on the site of the present General Post Office.

1. 32. *a bulk* [not recorded before late 16th c. Etymology doubtful]. Prof. Skeat suggests o.n. *balkr*, *bólkr*, beam (= *Balk*), which might perhaps give m.e. *bolc*, and Mod. Eng. *bulk*; there is also an o.e. *bolca*, "gangway of a ship, supposed to be a parallel form of *bealca*, *Balk*. Cf. *Bulcar*, a Beam or Rafter, Lincolnsh." (Bailey), a framework projecting from the front of a shop, a stall (Murray).

1. 36. *Kitcat club*, formed about 1700, is said to have first met at an obscure house in Shire Lane. The society consisted of thirty-nine distinguished noblemen and gentlemen zealously attached to the House of Hanover, among whom were the Dukes of Somerset, Richmond, Grafton, Devonshire, and Marlborough,

and (after the accession of George I.) the Duke of Newcastle, the Earls of Dorset, Sunderland, Manchester, Wharton, and Kingston, Lords Halifax and Somers, Sir Robert Walpole, Vanbrugh, Congreve, Grenville, Addison, Garth, Maynwaring, Stepney, and Walsh. Steele, in No. 9 of the *Spectator*, after stating that "our modern celebrated clubs are founded on eating and drinking," adds, "The Kit-cat itself is said to have taken its original from a mutton-pie." Malone, in his *Life of Dryden*, says: "The club is supposed to have derived its name from Christopher Katt, a pastry cook, who kept the house where they dined, and excelled in making mutton pies, which always formed part of their bill of fare.

1. 36. the Scriblerus club was formed in 1714, and included among its members Pope, Gray, Swift, Arbuthnot, Congreve, Atterbury, and Harley. It did not last long, but as the result of its formation we have the *Memoirs of Martinus Scriblerus*, *The Travels of Gulliver*, and Pope's *Treatise of the Bathos*.

Page 31, l. 4. Albemarle Street, a street leading out of Piccadilly. At No. 50 are the offices of Messrs. Murray, the publishers. Byron styled the grandfather of the present Mr. Murray "the *δραστής* of publishers, the Anak of Stationers." He, Scott, and others had reason to acknowledge the munificence of this firm.

Paternoster Row, a narrow street immediately north of St. Paul's churchyard, long inhabited by stationers, afterwards by mercers, and now chiefly by booksellers.

1. 17. a full third night. The profits of every third night's representation was paid to the author. For example, in the case of Johnson's *Irene*, Lord Brougham tells us that "the manager obtained for it nine nights of representation, the play then at once dropped. ... However, the benefit of three nights' profits was thus, by the rules of the stage, secured to the author, and the copyright being sold to his friend Dodsley produced him a hundred pounds more" (*Men of Letters of the Time of George III.*, Vol. II., p. 26).

dedication, an address to a patron, prefixed to a book, testifying respect, and recommending the work to his protection and favour (Webster).

1. 22. ordinary, a dining room or eating house, where there is a fixed price for the meal in distinction from one where each dish is charged separately; hence, also, the meal provided at such a dining room. An Irish ordinary, consisting chiefly of potatoes, would be cheaper than an English one.

Shoe Lane runs due north from Fleet Street into Holborn. In an obscure lodging near Shoe Lane died Samuel Boyse, who is mentioned two lines below.

l. 24. **Savage, Richard** (b. 1698, d. 1743), poet and dramatist, noted for his genius, irregular and dissipated life, and consequent misery and privation. He was the author of *Love in a Veil*, *The Bastard*, *The Wanderer*, *Sir Thomas Overbury*, and other works. Johnson published *The Life of Richard Savage* in 1744. Mr. Leslie Stephen pronounces this book to be "one of his (Johnson's) most forcible performances and the best extant illustration of the life of the struggling author of the time."

**Boyse, Samuel** (b. 1708, d. 1749), poet, wrote *The Tears of the Muses* (an elegy on the death of Viscountess Stormont); *The Deity, a Poem*; he translated *Fénelon*, he modernized the *Squire's Tale* and the *Coke's Tale* from Chaucer, and contributed several papers to the *Gentleman's Magazine*. He lived a reckless and improvident life, and was reduced to absolute beggary. "It was about the year 1740 that Mr. Boyse, reduced to the last extremity of human wretchedness, had not a shirt, a coat, or any kind of apparel to put on; the sheets in which he lay were carried to the pawnbroker's, and he was obliged to be confined to bed with no other covering than a blanket. During this time he had some employment in writing verses for the magazines, and whoever had seen him in his study must have thought the object singular enough. He sat up in bed with a blanket wrapped about him, through which he had cut a hole large enough to admit his arm, and, placing the paper upon his knee, scribbled in the best manner he could the verses he was compelled to make. ... Whenever his distresses so pressed as to induce him to dispose of his shirt, he fell upon an artificial method of supplying one. He cut some white paper in slips, which he tyed round his wrists, and in the same manner supplied his neck. In this plight he frequently appeared abroad, with the additional inconvenience of want of breeches" (Cibber's *Lives of the Poets*).

l. 28. **Champagne**, a well-known and expensive wine, grown in Champagne, a province of Eastern France.

**Tokay**, a kind of wine produced at Tokay, in Hungary, made of white grapes. It is distinguished from other wines by its aromatic taste (Webster). Both Champagne and Tokay were very costly wines.

ll. 28, 29. **Betty Careless**. Is this a real personage or a character in a play? Perhaps it is a made-up name; Betty was a common name of fruit-girls, serving maids, actresses, and even of ladies of title in Johnson's days; and perhaps Macaulay adds "Careless" to denote her character. Betty is a character in *The Lying Lover*, *The Old Batchelor*, and *The Gamester*; Lady Betty is in *The Careless Husband*, and in *Grenville's Correspondence*, Vol. v., p. 302, Mr. C. Lloyd writes to Mr. Grenville: "The report to-day at Betty's is that Lord Weymouth is to be



Secretary to the Southern Department." Mr. W. J. Smith adds a note to explain Betty's: "A noted fruit shop in St. James' Street, and a well-known rendezvous for the political gossips of the day. There is a portrait of Betty the fruit-girl by Gilray." We would suggest that all these Bettys were familiar characters to Macaulay, and that he invented the name of Betty Careless on the spur of the moment to suit the passage here.

1. 30. Porridge island, an alley or footway near the church of St. Martin's in the Fields, destroyed in 1829. It was filled with cooks' shops, and was a cant name. The real name is unknown.

1. 34. gipsy, or gypsy, one of a certain nomad race. (Fr. Lat. Greek, Egypt.) Spelt *gipsen* by Spenser (*Mother Hubbard's Tale*, l. 86.) This is a mere corruption of M.E. *Egyptien*, an Egyptian. Chaucer calls St. Mary of Egypt "The Egyptian Marie"; and Skelton, swearing by the same saint, says "by Mary Gipey." The supposition that they were Egyptians was false; their original home was India (Skeat).

Mohawk, the name of a tribe of Red Indians in North America; now almost, if not quite, extinct.

Page 32, l. 3. unicorn (Lat. *unicornis*, one-horned), a fabulous animal with one horn; often represented in heraldry as a horse with a lion's tail, and with a horn from the middle of its forehead. The unicorn of the Bible has been supposed by some to be the *oryx*, by others the buffalo, by others the rhinoceros, and by others some species of wild ox.

1. 4. crib (supposed to be connected with M.H.G. *krebe*, masc. basket, which may again stand in ablaut relation to *korb*, *corf*). (1) A barred receptacle for fodder used in cow-sheds and fold-yards; (2) "The stall or cabin of an ox" (J). (Murray.)

1. 15. a plate of shin of beef at a subterraneous cook-shop. Cf. Macaulay's *Essay on Chatham*, p. 758 (Longman's Popular Edition).

1. 17. bagnio (Ital. *bagno*, Lat. *balneum*, a bath). (1) A bath or bathing-house; especially one with hot baths, vapour baths, and appliances for sweating, cupping, and other operations (no longer applied to any such place in Britain, the nearest approach to which is the modern Turkish bath, but applied as an alien word to the baths of Italian or Turkish cities); (2) an oriental prison, a place of detention for slaves, a penal establishment; (3) a brothel, a house of prostitution. Cf. similar application of *stew* (Murray).

1. 23. Pope, Alexander (b. 1688, d. 1744), wrote *Essay on Criticism*, *Rape of the Lock*, translation of the *Iliad* and of the *Odyssey*, *The Dunciad*, *Essay on Man*, and many other works. He made £5000 by his *Iliad*, and was patronized by Harley, Bolingbroke, and others.

1. 26. Young, Edward (b. 1684, d. 1765), is described by Taine as "the author of *Night Thoughts*, a clergyman and courtier, who, having vainly attempted to enter Parliament, then to become a bishop, married, lost his wife and children, and made use of his misfortunes to write meditations on Life, Death, Immortality, Time, Friendship, The Christian Triumph, Virtue's Apology, A Moral Survey of the Nocturnal Heavens, and many other similar pieces." The following are the titles of some of his works: *The Last Day*, *The Force of Religion or Vanquished Love*, *The Revenge*, *The Brothers*; *Ocean, an Ode*; *Bustis*, *King of Egypt*, etc. Each of these poems has its flattering dedication to some influential person, place-hunting being one of Young's most prominent characteristics. With regard to the pension mentioned here, Johnson writes: "He is said to have been engaged at a settled stipend as a writer for the Court." In Swift's *Rhapsody on Poetry* are these lines, speaking of the Court:

"Whence Gay was banished in disgrace,  
Where Pope will never show his face,  
Where Y—— must torture his invention  
To flatter knaves, or lose his pension."

And Young, in a poem addressed to Walpole, says:

"Be this thy partial smile from censure free!  
'Twas meant for merit, though it fell on me"

(See Johnson's *Lives of the Poets*).

1. 30. Thomson; see p. 29, 1. 30 *supra*, and note.

Mallet, David (b. 1703, d. 1765), a successful but unprincipled literary adventurer. He came to London in 1723 as tutor to the family of the Duke of Montrose, and next year he published his ballad of *William and Margaret*. He was the friend of Young, Pope, Thomson, and other eminent persons. He was patronized by Frederick, Prince of Wales. At the command of the Prince he wrote, in conjunction with Thomson, the mask *Alfred*. In this mask was produced the song, *Rule Britannia*, but it is uncertain to which poet this song is to be attributed. He wrote also *Amyntor and Theodora*, *Truth in Rhyme*, *Gloria*, etc.

1. 33. Richardson; see p. 29, 1. 30, *supra*, and note. He was by trade a printer, and through the influence of Mr. Onslow, the Speaker, obtained the printing of the *Journals of the House of Commons*. In 1754 he was chosen Master of the Stationers' Company, and in 1760 he purchased a moiety of the patent of Law Printer to the king.

Page 33, 1. 1. Collins, William (b. 1721, d. 1756), a poet; wrote *Oriental Eclogues and Odes*, *Odes on several Descriptive and Allegorical Subjects*, and *An Ode occasioned by the Death of Mr. Thomson*. See Johnson's *Lives of the Poets*.

1. 1. Fielding, Henry (b. 1707, d. 1754), novelist, dramatist, and miscellaneous writer, produced *The History of Jonathan Wild*, *Tom Jones*, *Amelia*, *A Journey from this World to the Next*, *The Mock Doctor*, *Pasquin*, *Tragedy of Tragedies*, *The Wedding-Day*, and many other works. Byron called Fielding "The prose Homer of human nature." Sir Walter Scott describes him as "the father of the English novel."

Thomson; see p. 29, l. 30, *supra*, and note.

1. 5, etc. Compare Macaulay's "Samuel Johnson," in his *Miscellaneous Writings and Speeches* (Longman's Popular Edition, p. 375): "At length Johnson, in the twenty-eighth year of his age, determined to seek his fortune in the Capital as a literary adventurer. He set out with a few guineas, three acts of the tragedy of *Irene* in manuscript, and two or three letters of introduction from his friend Walmesley."

1. 11. cockloft [origin doubtful; a corresponding Scotch name *hen-loft* for a loft over a barn, etc., into which fowls ascend by a "hen-ladder," suggests that the derivation is from the fowl. But it is not impossible that *cock* has some figurative or transferred sense. Anthony à Wood wrote it *cockle-loft*.] A small upper loft; a small apartment under the very ridge of the roof to which the access is usually by a ladder; "the room over the garret" (J.) (Murray).

ordinaries; see p. 31, l. 22, *supra*, and note.

1. 13. A pension, etc., of £300 a year; see Boswell, p. 125 (sub anno, 1762). This was more than sufficient for Johnson's wants. He tells us that Savage had a pension of £200 a year, and after describing that poet's popularity he adds, "so powerful is genius when it is invested with the glitter of *affluence*."

1. 25. Burke; see p. 27, l. 16, *supra*, and note.

1. 26. Robertson, William, D.D. (b. 1721, d. 1793), a Scottish historian, wrote a *History of Scotland*, *The History of the Reign of the Emperor Charles V.*, *The History of America*, and *An Historical Disquisition concerning the Knowledge which the Ancients had of India*. He was an intimate friend of David Hume, and met Johnson frequently (see Boswell, pp. 484-6, and elsewhere).

the Wartons; see p. 27, l. 15, *supra*, and note.

Gray, Thomas (b. 1716, d. 1771), a poet, was educated at Eton and Peterhouse, Cambridge. He was a friend of Horace Walpole, whom he accompanied on his tour of Europe as far as Reggio, and then he returned to England; in 1747 he published *Ode on the distant prospect of Eton College*; in 1751, *Elegy written in a Country Churchyard*; in 1757, *Ode on the Progress of Poesy*; and *The Bard*. (For Johnson's opinion of his poetry, see Boswell, p. 186, sub anno 1763.)

1. 26. **Mason**, William (b. 1725, d. 1797), a poet; was fellow of Pembroke Hall, Cambridge, and subsequently became one of the king's chaplains, and precentor of York. He wrote *Teis*, *Elfrida*, *Caraciacus*, *The English Garden*, and other works. He published in 1775 the *Poems of Gray with Memoirs of his Life*. See Boswell, p. 298 (sub anno 1775), p. 469 (sub anno 1778).

Gibbon; see p. 7, l. 8, *supra*, and note.

Adam Smith; see p. 19, l. 27, *supra*, and note.

1. 27. **Beattie**; see p. 2, l. 20, *supra*, and note.

Sir William Jones; see p. 14, l. 21, *supra*, and note.

Goldsmith; see p. 23, l. 10, *supra*, and note.

Churchill; see p. 26, l. 24, *supra*, and note.

1. 36. **Curl** and **Osborne**: two booksellers mentioned frequently in *The Dunciad* of Pope. See Book I., l. 32, etc.

"One cell there is, concealed from vulgar eye,  
The cave of Poverty and Poetry.  
Keen, hollow winds howl thro' the bleak recess,  
Emblem of Music caused by Emptiness.  
Hence Bards, like Proteus long in vain tied down,  
Escape in monsters, and amaze the town.  
Hence Miscellanies spring, the weekly boast  
Of Curl's chaste press, and Lintot's rubic post.  
Hence hymning Tyburn's elegiac lines,  
Hence Journals, Medleys, Mer'ries, Magazines,  
Sepulchral Lies, our holy walls to grace,  
And New Year Odes, and all the Grub Street race."

Curl was fined by the court of King's Bench for publishing obscene books. In *Dunciad* (Bk. II., l. 53), Pope calls him "dauntless Curl," and adds a note that "he carried the Trade many lengths beyond what it ever before had arrived at; and that he was the envy and admiration of his profession. He possessed himself of a command over all authors whatever; he caused them to write what he pleased, they could not call their very *Names* their own." He was not only famous among these, he was taken notice of by the *State*, the *Church*, and the *Law*, and received particular marks of distinction from each. In Bk. II., l. 167, of the *Dunciad*, we have Osborne and Curl mentioned together:

"Osborne and Curl accept the glorious strife  
(Tho' this his son dissuades and that his wife).

Osborne, thro' perfect modesty o'ercome  
Crown'd with the Jordan, walks contented home."

Pope adds a note: "*Osborne*, *Thomas*, a bookseller in Gray's Inn, very well qualified by his impudence for this part. .. This man

published advertisements for a year together, pretending to sell Mr. Pope's subscription books of Homer's *Iliad* at half the price, of which books he had none, but cut to the size of them (which was quarto), the common books in folio, without copper plates, on a worse paper, and never above half the value." Of Osborne, Johnson used to say, that he had no sense of any shame but that of being poor. Johnson, on one occasion, gave Osborne a beating for impertinence. See Boswell, p. 49 (sub anno 1742). Osborne bought the library of the Earl of Oxford for £13,000, and Johnson compiled a catalogue thereof for him (see Boswell, pp. 49 and 50).

Page 34, l. 2. *Grub Street*; see p. 30, l. 30, *supra*, and note. Cf. *Dunciad*, Bk. I., 43, "all the Grub Street race." Again, Bk. I., l. 310, "Gaming and Grub Street skulk behind the king."

l. 3. *hack* (O. Fr. *hague*, Sp. *haca*, O. Sp. and Pg. *faca*, cf. Icel. *fákr*, horse). (1). A horse, or coach, or other carriage, hackneyed or let out for common hire; also a family horse used in all kinds of work as distinguished from hunting and carriage horses. (2) A book-maker who hires himself out for any sort of literary work; an overworked man; a drudge (Webster).

l. 5. *inexhaustible matter to the satirical genius of Pope*; see the *Dunciad*.

l. 19. *original* (Fr. Pr. Sp. and Pg. *original*; It. *originale*; O. Fr. *original*): (1) origin, commencement, source; (2) that which precedes all others of its class; archetype; first copy; (3) the precise language employed by a writer: an untranslated tongue; (4) a person of marked peculiarity and eccentricity (Webster).

l. 24. *Streatham Park*, the residence of the Thrales; see Boswell, p. 439 (sub anno 1778), and p. 587 (sub anno 1782).

l. 25. *St. John's Gate*, in Clerkenwell, was the place where the *Gentleman's Magazine* was originally printed; see Boswell, p. 33 (sub anno 1737); for the incident alluded to here see Boswell, p. 53 n. Mr. Croker tells us that this ancient gate was "the last relique of the once extensive and magnificent priory of the heroic knights of the order of St. John of Jerusalem, suppressed at the dissolution and destroyed by successive dilapidations."

Page 35, l. 2. *Savage and Boyse*; see p. 31, l. 24, *supra*, and note.

l. 9. *By that bread which is the bitterest of all food*. Cf. Dante, *Par.* XVII. 58:

"Tu proverai sì come sa di sale  
La pane altrui, e com'è duro calle  
Lo scendere e il salir per l'altrui scale;

translated by A. J. Butler, "Thou shalt prove how tastes of salt

another's bread, and how it is a hard path to go down and up over another's stairs."

"Thou shalt prove  
How salt the savour is of other's bread;  
How hard the passage, to descend and climb  
By other's stairs."

ll. 10, 11. by that deferred hope which makes the heart sick: an adaptation of *Proverbs*, xiii. 12.

l. 15. eo immitior, quia toleraverat: Tacitus, *Annales*, i. 20, all the harsher because he had endured.

ll. 23-26. He turned his house...benevolence, e.g. Mrs. Williams, Mr. Levett, Mrs. Gardiner, the negro Frank, Mrs. Desmoulines and her daughter.

Page 36, ll. 1, 2. Goldsmith...the Good-natured Man; see p. 23, l. 10, *supra*, and note. Johnson wrote the prologue to *The Good-natured Man*. The story of Goldsmith's crying, etc., is told in Mrs. Piozzi's Anecdotes.

l. 4. valetudinarians, men in weak health. (Fr. *valetudinaire*, sickly, from Lat. *valetudin*, stem of *valetudo*, health, good or bad, but especially bad health, feebleness.) Johnson says of Rev. Mr. Seward, of Lichfield, "He is a valetudinarian, one of those who are always mending themselves. I do not know a more disagreeable character than a valetudinarian, who thinks he may do anything that is for his ease, and indulges himself in the grossest freedoms: Sir, he brings himself to the state of a hog in a sty." (Boswell, p. 14, sub anno 1777.)

ll. 9, 10. Lady Tavistock, who grieved herself to death for the loss of her husband, was talked of. "She was rich and wanted employment," said Johnson, "so she cried till she lost all power of restraining her tears: other women are forced to outlive their husbands, who were just as much beloved, depend upon it: but they have no time for grief: and I doubt not if we had put my Lady Tavistock into a small chandler's shop, and given her a nurse-child to tend her life would have been saved. The poor and the busy have no leisure for sentimental sorrow" (see Piozzi, p. 67, etc.).

l. 21. Holofernes, the name of a Euphuistic schoolmaster in Shakespeare's *Love's Labour's Lost*. Mrs. Piozzi tells us how the newspapers spoke of Goldsmith and Johnson together, as Holofernes the pedant, and Dull his flatterer: Goldsmith was much mortified, but Johnson said to him, "Why, what wouldst thou have, dear doctor? Who, the plague, is hurt with all this nonsense? and how is a man the worse, I wonder, in his health, purse, or character for being called Holofernes?" "I do not know" (replies the other), "how you may relish being called Holofernes; but I do not like at least to play Goodman Dull."

1. 22. Mrs. Carter (see Boswell, p. 37, n), was one of the most learned of her sex. She was mistress of many languages, ancient and modern; she wrote a translation of the Discourses of Epictetus. The conversation alluded to in the text is given in Boswell, p. 563 (sub anno 1781).

Page 37, l. 1. *scepticism*, doubt, hesitation, disbelief (akin to *σκέπτομαι*, I consider; from Greek root *Skep*, Aryan root *Spak*, to spy).

1. 2. *paradox* (Greek, *παράδοξος*, contrary to opinion, strange; from *παρά*, beside, *δόξα*, a notion, opinion, from *δοkein*, to seem), that which is contrary to received opinion; strange but true.

ll. 12-16. *the fisherman ... Solomon*; see *The Arabian Nights*, "The History of the Fisherman." The charm of Solomon was the seal of Solomon on which the name of God was engraven, and which prevented the escape of the genius from the vase.

ll. 31-33. "Johnson," observed Hogarth, "... liars." This statement is made by Mrs. Piozzi, p. 104. Hogarth, when talking with Mrs. Piozzi's father, said, "That man (Johnson) is not contented with believing the Bible, but he fairly resolves, I think, to believe nothing *but* the Bible, ... Johnson (added he), though so wise a fellow, is more like king David than king Solomon; for he says, in his haste, that all men are liars."

Hogarth, William (b. 1697, d. 1764), was a painter with a peculiar style in which he stands alone as moralist, satirist, and humorist; his chief works are *The Harlot's Progress*, *The Rake's Progress*, *Marriage à la Mode*, *The Enraged Musician*, *The Election*, *Modern Midnight Conversation*, etc.

1. 34. *browbeat*, to beat down with haughty looks or with arrogant speech.

Page 38, ll. 8, 9. *Mr. Cave ... ghost*; see Boswell, p. 237 (sub anno 1772). *Cave* was the conductor of the *Gentleman's Magazine*.

ll. 10, 11. *a ghost-hunt to Cock Lane*; see Boswell, pp. 137-8 (sub anno 1762), and p. 458 (sub anno 1778), where it is stated plainly that Johnson went only to expose the imposture. *Cock Lane* lay to the east of Shoreditch.

l. 11. *was angry with John Wesley, etc.*; see Boswell, p. 470 (sub anno 1778).

John Wesley (b. 1703, d. 1791) was educated at Oxford, and, with his brother Charles, was the founder of the society known as "Wesleyan Methodists." They regarded themselves as members of the Church of England until the clergy refused to allow them to preach in their churches. It was not till after Wesley's death that the Methodist preachers began to administer the sacraments, and so became a Nonconformist body.

ll. 13, 14. the Celtic genealogies and poems; see p. 8, l. 30, *Macpherson's Ossian*, and note.

ll. 15, 16. stories of the second sight; see Boswell, p. 175 (sub anno 1766), p. 225 (sub anno 1772), p. 291 (sub anno 1775); the subject is mentioned many times in the *Tour to the Hebrides*.

ll. 16, 17. the Highland seers, the Highlanders that claimed to have second sight.

l. 18. Fingal; see p. 8, l. 30, *Macpherson's Ossian*, and note.

ll. 21, 22. Lord Roscommon's early proficiency, etc. Wentworth Dillon, Earl of Roscommon, was the son of James Dillon and Elizabeth Wentworth, sister to the Earl of Strafford. He began his education at his uncle's seat in Yorkshire, where "he was instructed (by Dr. Hall) in Latin, which he learned so as to write it with purity and elegance, though he was never able to retain the rules of grammar. ... When the storm broke out upon Strafford, his house was a shelter no longer; and Dillon, by the advice of Usher, was sent to Caen, where the Protestants had then an university, and continued his studies under Bochart. Young Dillon, who was sent to study under Bochart, and who is represented as having already made great proficiency in literature, could not then be more than nine years old." ... That he was sent to Caen is certain, that he was a great scholar may be doubted. At Caen, he is said to have had some preternatural intelligence of his father's death. "The Lord Roscommon, being a boy of ten years of age, at Caen in Normandy, one day was, as it were, madly extravagant in playing, leaping, getting over the tables, boards, etc. He was wont to be sober enough; they said, God grant this bodes no ill-luck to him! In the heat of this extravagant fit, he cries out, *My father is dead*. A fortnight after news came from Ireland that his father was dead. This account I had from Mr. Knolles, who was then his governor, and then with him, since secretary to the Earl of Strafford; and I have heard his lordship's relations confirm the same" (*Aubrey's Miscellanies*). The present age is very little inclined to favour any accounts of this kind, nor will the name of Aubrey much recommend it to credit: it ought not, however, to be omitted, because better evidence of a fact cannot easily be found than is here offered; and it must be by preserving such relations that we may at last judge how much they are to be regarded. Johnson then briefly states the pros and cons, and concludes thus: "I believe what Osborne says of an appearance of sanctity may be applied to such impulses or anticipations as this: do not wholly slight them, because they may be true; but do not easily trust them, because they may be false" (*Lives of the Poets*).



1. 36. sectaries, members of a sect.

Page 39, l. 10. *Hudibras* or *Ralpho*. *Hudibras* is the title and hero of a satirical poem by Samuel Butler; he is a Presbyterian justice of the time of the Commonwealth; *Ralpho*, or *Ralph*, is his squire, an Independent clerk, with whom he is almost always engaged in controversy. They set out together on a Quixotic errand to correct prevalent abuses, and to enforce the observance of the strict laws enacted by Parliament for the suppression of the sports and amusements of the people.

ll. 14, 15. the sin of drinking coffee on Good Friday. His usual custom on that day was to drink tea without milk at breakfast, and to eat a cross bun to prevent faintness. See Boswell, p. 603 (sub anno 1783), and p. 471 (sub anno 1778).

l. 19. *Campbell*, etc. See Boswell, p. 141 (sub anno 1763). Dr. John Campbell (b. 1708, d. 1775) was an industrious and voluminous writer of historical, political, and miscellaneous works; his chief productions were *The Military History of Prince Eugene and the Duke of Marlborough*, *Lives of the British Admirals*, *Hermippus Redivivus*, *A Political Survey of Britain*.

l. 25. *Roundhead*, a nickname given in the reign of Charles I. to the Puritans or Parliamentary party, who were accustomed to wear their hair cut close to the head, whereas the Royalists wore their hair in long ringlets.

l. 26. *Solomon's singers*. In 2 *Chron.* xxxv. 15, we are told that "The singers, the sons of Asaph, were in their place, according to the commandment of David, and Asaph and Heman, and Jeduthun the king's seer." And in 1 *Chron.* xxv. 1-6, "Moreover David and the captains of the host separated to the service of the sons of Asaph, and of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should prophesy with harps, with psalteries, and with cymbals: and the number of the workmen according to their service was: Of the sons of Asaph, Zaccur, and Joseph, and Nethaniah, and Asarelah, the sons of Asaph under the hands of Asaph, which prophesied according to the order of the king. Of Jeduthun: the sons of Jeduthun; Gedaliah, and Zeri, and Jeshaiiah, Hashabiah, and Mattithiah, six, under the hands of their father Jeduthun who prophesied with a harp, to give thanks and to praise the Lord. Of Heman: the sons of Heman; Bukkiah, Mattaniah, Uzziel, Shebuel, and Jerimoth, Hananiah, Hanani, Eliathah, Giddalti, and Romanti-ezer, Joshbekashah, Mallothi, Hothir, and Mahazioth: All these were the sons of Heman the king's seer in the words of God, to lift up the horn." We may presume that most, if not all, of these served as singers in the Temple, not only to David but also to Solomon.

Page 40, ll. 3, 4. the cant of patriotism. *Cant* (probably akin

to Lat. *cantus*, singing, saying, chant), Fr. *chant*, Lat. *cantare*, etc., has many meanings:

- (1) Singing, musical sound.
- (2) Accent, intonation, tone.
- (3) A whining manner of speaking, especially of beggars; a whine.

(4) The peculiar language or jargon of a class: (a) The secret language or jargon used by gipsies, thieves, professional lawyers, etc.; hence any jargon used for the purpose of secrecy. (b) The special phraseology of a particular class of persons belonging to a particular object: professional or technical jargon (always depreciative or contemptuous). (c) The peculiar phraseology of a religious sect or class. (d) Provincial dialect; vulgar slang. (e) Attributively with the previous meaning; cf. Macaulay's *Essay on Chatham* (p. 299, Longman's Popular Edition), "Called by the *cant* name of the 'broad bottom.'"

(5) A form of words, a phrase. (a) A set form of words repeated perfunctorily or mechanically. (b) A pet phrase, a trick of words; especially a stock phrase that is much affected at the time, or is repeated as a matter of habit or form.

(6) As a kind of phraseology: (a) Phraseology taken up and used for fashion's sake, without being a genuine expression of sentiment; this is the sense in which Macaulay uses it here, canting language about patriotism. (b) Especially, affected or unreal use of religious or pietistic phraseology; language, or action, implying the pretended assumption of goodness or piety. (Extracts from Murray.)

Johnson's remark to Boswell (p. 611, sub anno 1783), "Clear your mind of cant," is often quoted; it should be read carefully with the context; the passage continues thus: "you may *talk* as other people do; you may say to a man, 'Sir, I am your most humble servant.' You are *not* his most humble servant. You may say, 'these are bad times; it is a melancholy thing to be reserved to such times.' You don't mind the times. You tell a man, 'I am sorry you had such bad weather the last day of your journey, and were so much wet.' You don't care sixpence whether he is wet or dry. You may *talk* in this manner: it is a mode of talking in society: but don't *think* foolishly."

1. 15. rants; see p. 24, l. 13, *ranting*, and note.

1. 16. Squire Western. A jovial, fox-hunting, country gentleman in Fielding's novel of *Tom Jones*; described by Sir Walter Scott as "an inimitable picture of ignorance, prejudice, irascibility and rusticity, united with natural shrewdness, constitutional good humour, and an instinctive affection for his daughter."

1. 18. Pococurante, an Italian word meaning, literally, 'one that cares (and therefore knows) little about a particular branch of study, a mere dabbler.'

ll. 22, 23. Goldsmith's Traveller, etc.; the lines quoted are almost the end of the poem.

l. 28. Rasselas, Prince of Abyssinia, is the hero and title of a tale by Johnson, published in 1759. See Boswell, p. 114 (sub anno 1759), and elsewhere.

ll. 29-31. torrents of raving abuse ... American Congress; see Boswell, p. 467 (sub anno 1778), p. 289 (sub anno 1775).

l. 34. Sir Adam Ferguson, etc.; see Boswell, p. 234 (sub anno 1772), and compare his conversation with Sir Philip Jennings's clerk, Boswell, p. 557 (sub anno 1781). Sir Adam Ferguson of Kelkerran, Bart., was member of Parliament for Ayrshire from 1774 to 1780 (Mr. Croker).

Page 41, l. 12. Lord Bacon (b. 1561, d. 1626), statesman and philosopher, wrote *The Advancement of Learning*, *Novum Organum*, *Essays*, and other works. Macaulay has written his life (see p. 349, etc.), of Longman's Popular Edition of *Macaulay's Essays*, etc.).

Page 42, l. 12. the statute-book contains all Acts of Parliament printed at full length.

l. 13. the reports, or Term Reports, contain accounts of all the cases tried in various courts, with the decision of the judge in each case. They, therefore, supply interpretations of doubtful points contained in the Statute Book. Cf. *Essay on Chatham*, p. 772, Popular Edition.

l. 25. on the other side of Westminster Hall, etc., i.e. in the House of Commons. Formerly the Court of Common Pleas and the Court of Exchequer abutted on Westminster Hall on the side opposite to the House of Commons (see appendix to my notes on Macaulay's *Essay on Chatham*).

l. 27. quirk, a cavil, subtle question. The original sense seems to have been 'a quick turn.' Formed with a suffix -k (as in *stal-k*, verb, from *steal*; *smirk*, from *smile*) from a base, *quir-*. This base is rather Celtic than E., appearing in W. *chwiri*, to turn briskly; *chwyr*, strong impulse; *chwyrnu*, to whirl, whiz, hum; whence *chwired*, a quirk, a piece of craft; *chwiredn*, to be crafty, to play tricks. Cf. Gael *cuireid*, a turn, wile, trick, referred by Macleod to *car*, to turn. I suspect the word to be really of imitative origin from a Celtic base KWIR, answering to Teut. HWIR, as seen in E. *whir* (Skeat).

Page 43, l. 10. Waller, Edmund (b. 1605, d. 1687), poet, wrote *The Prince's Escape at St. Andero*, *An Address to the Queen*, *To Amoret*, *Chloris and Hylas*, *The Dance*, *The Message of the Rose*, *On a Girdle*, a panegyrick *On the Protector*, another *On Charles II.*, *Divine Poems*, and other works. He improved English versification, and for ease, gaiety, brilliancy, and wit, his ama-

tory poem has seldom been surpassed. For Johnson's estimate of him, see *Lives of the Poets*.

l. 10. Denham, Sir John (b. 1615, d. 1668), wrote *The Sophy* and *Cooper's Hill*, and many other poems and translations. Prior said, "Denham and Waller improved our versification, and Dryden perfected it (see Johnson's *Lives of the Poets*). Dryden describes him as

"That limping old bard,

Whose fame on 'the Sophy' and 'Cooper's Hill' stands."

Dryden, John (b. 1631, d. 1700), was born at Aldwinkle, Northamptonshire, and educated at Westminster School and Trinity College, Cambridge. He was for a time secretary to Sir Gilbert Pickering, one of Cromwell's council, and wrote stanzas on the Protector's death; but after the Restoration he became a staunch Royalist. His chief works are: *Astraea Redux*, *The Duke of Guise*, *The Wild Gallant*, *Annus Mirabilis*, *Absalom and Achitophel*, *Religio Laici*, *The Hind and Panther*, *Alexander's Feast*, and a translation of *Virgil*.

Pope, Alexander (b. 1688, d. 1744), was born in Lombard Street, London; he wrote his *Ode on Solitude* and *Pastoral* while still in his teens. His chief works are the *Essay on Criticism*, *Rape of the Lock*, translations of Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, the *Dunciad*, and *Essay on Man*.

ll. 13-15. Though he allowed Homer ... he ... *Iliad*; see Boswell, p. 429 (sub anno 1777). "We must consider (said he), whether Homer was not the greatest poet, though Virgil may have produced the finest poem. Virgil was indebted to Homer for the whole invention of the structure of an epic poem, and for many of his beauties."

ll. 16, 17. he preferred Pope's *Iliad* to Homer's. What is Macaulay's authority for this statement?

l. 18. Hoole, John (b. 1727, d. 1803), was a clerk in the India House, but devoted his leisure to literary work; he translated Ariosto's *Orlando Furioso*, and Tasso's *Jerusalem Delivered*, and two volumes of the dramas of Metastasio; he was the author of three tragedies: *Cyrus*, *Timanthes*, and *Cleonice*.

Fairfax, Edward (died about 1632), was the son of Sir Thomas Fairfax of Denton, in Yorkshire; he is regarded as one of the great improvers of English versification; his chief work is a translation of Tasso's *Jerusalem Delivered*—the translation is written in the same stanza as the original. He wrote also eclogues and a prose work on *Demonology*.

l. 21. Percy, Thomas (b. 1728, d. 1811), was born at Bridgenorth in Shropshire, educated at Christ Church, Oxford; he was vicar for twenty-five years of Easton Maudit in Northamptonshire; subsequently he became dean of Carlisle, and in 1782 was raised

to the bishopric of Dromore in Ireland. He published a collection of English ballads under the title of *The Reliques of Ancient English Poetry*.

1. 24. *Tom Jones, The History of a Foundling*, a novel by Henry Fielding, published in 1749. Johnson had an unreasonable prejudice against Fielding, and went so far as to call him "a blockhead" and "a barren rascal," and said "there is more knowledge of the heart in one letter of Richardson's than in all *Tom Jones* (see Boswell pp. 189, 235, sub anno 1767 and 1772).

*Gulliver's Travels*: "*Travels into Several Remote Nations of the World*: by Lemuel Gulliver, first a surgeon, and then a captain of several ships. In four parts: Part I. A voyage to Lilliput. Part II. A voyage to Brobdingnag. Part III. A voyage to Laputa, Balnibarbi, Luggnag, Glub-dub-drib, and Japan. Part IV. A voyage to the country of the Houyhnhnms," a satire on court, ministry, and policy of George I., published by Jonathan Swift in 1726. Of *Gulliver's Travels*, Johnson said, "When once you have thought of big men, and little men, it is very easy to do all the rest." He generally spoke disparagingly of Swift and his works. (See Boswell, p. 154, sub anno 1763; p. 195, sub anno 1768; pp. 291-2, sub anno 1775).

1. 25. *Tristram Shandy, Gent, The Life and Opinions of*, by Laurence Sterne, published in 1759. Johnson denied that Sterne's tones were pathetic (see Boswell, p. 568, sub anno 1781).

*Thomson's Castle of Indolence*, an allegorical poem in two cantos, published in 1748.

11. 28, 29. the Creation of that portentous bore, Sir Richard Blackmore. A philosophical poem, printed in 1712, which, though now neglected, obtained, when published, the approbation of Dennis and Addison (see *Spectator*, No. 339). Johnson's criticism was also laudatory. "This poem (*The Creation*), if he had written nothing else, would have transmitted him to posterity among the first favourites of the English muse." But most modern readers would agree with Macaulay's estimate rather than that of Addison and Johnson. Other works by Sir Richard Blackmore, physician and poet, are *Prince Arthur, King Arthur, Paraphrases of the Book of Job, etc., A Satire upon Wit, Eliza, The Lay Monk, King Alfred, The Accomplished Preacher, etc.* Cowper says of him that he wrote "more absurdities in verse than any writer of our country." Moore's epigram runs:

" 'Twas in his carriage the sublime  
Sir Richard Blackmore used to rhyme,  
And if the wits don't do him wrong  
'Twixt Death and Ethics pass'd his time  
Scribbling and killing all day long."

1. 29. Gray; see p. 33, l. 26, and note. In Boswell, p. 136 (sub anno 1763), Johnson says: "Sir, I do not think Gray a first-rate poet. He has not a bold imagination, nor much command of words. The obscurity in which he has involved himself will not persuade us that he is sublime. His *Elegy in a Church-yard* has a happy selection of images, but I don't like what are called his great things," etc., etc. Again, p. 531 (sub anno 1780), "Talking of Gray's Odes," he said, "they are forced plants, raised in a hot-bed; and they are but poor plants, they are but cucumbers after all." A gentleman present, who had been running down ode writing in general as a bad species of poetry, unluckily said, "Had they been literally cucumbers, they had been better things than odes"—"Yes, sir," said Johnson, "for a hog."

1. 30. Churchill; see p. 26, l. 24, *supra*, and note. In Boswell, p. 141 (sub anno 1763), "He talked very contemptuously of Churchill's poetry, observing that 'It had a temporary currency only from its audacity of abuse, and being filled with living names, and that it would sink into oblivion. ... Sir, I called the fellow a blockhead at first, and I will call him a blockhead still.'"

1. 31. Macpherson, see p. 8, l. 30, and note; and also Boswell, p. 133 (sub anno 1763).

1. 32. the Fingal, see p. 8, l. 30, *Macpherson*, and note *supra*,

Page 44, l. 5. Pope's Epitaphs. Pope wrote thirteen epitaphs (on Charles, Earl of Dorset, Sir Wm. Trumbull, Hon. Simon Harcourt, James Craggs, Mr. Rowe, Mrs. Corbett, Hon. Robert Digby and his sister Mary, Sir Godfrey Kneller, Gen. Henry Withers, Elijah Fenton, Mr. Gay, Sir Isaac Newton, and Edmund, Duke of Buckingham) on each of which Johnson wrote a minute criticism (see Johnson's *Life of Pope*).

1. 8. Rymer, Thomas (d. 1713), a critic and antiquary, studied at Cambridge and Gray's Inn; he was appointed royal historiographer in 1692; he made a valuable collection of public treaties entitled *Foedera, Conventiones, et cujuscunque generis Acta Publica, inter Reges Angliae et alios Principes*. Although his criticisms may have been worthless, his work as a historiographer is most valuable.

1. 13. Mitre tavern, in Fleet Street, was a place of frequent resort for Johnson and his friends.

11. 13, 14. His preference of Latin epitaphs. In the *Tour to the Hebrides* (Sunday, 5th Sept., 1773), Johnson said that the inscription by George, Lord Lyttleton, on the monument of Sir James Macdonald at Rome "should have been in Latin, as everything intended to be universal and permanent should be." But Latin is far from being the universal language; Johnson

probably means by "universal" addressed to all educated classes of all nations and generations.

ll. 14, 15. An English epitaph... Smollett; see *Tour to the Hebrides*, Thursday, 28th Oct., 1773.

l. 17. epitaph on Goldsmith; see Boswell, p. 384 (sub anno 1776).

l. 21. Thermopylæ (the Hot Gates, Greek θερμός, hot; πύλη, gate), the name of a pass leading from Thessaly into Locris, and celebrated on account of the heroic defence of Leonidas and 300 Spartans against the vast host of the Persians in 480 B.C.

hieroglyphic (Greek ιερός, sacred; γλύφειν, to hollow out, engrave, carve), a sacred symbol, or character; applied especially to the picture-writing of the ancient Egyptian priests.

Page 45, l. 1. Swift; see p. 28, l. 34, *supra*, and note.

l. 4. Directions to Servants was one of the works of Swift.

ll. 12, 13. from Islington to the Thames and from Hyde-park corner to Mile-end green. These were the boundaries of London N., S., W., and E. respectively in Johnson's time.

l. 14. turnpike-gate, a gate set across a road to stop those liable to toll. The name was given to the toll-gate because it took the place of the old-fashioned turnstile, which was made with four horizontal pikes or arms revolving on the top of a post. Toll-gates, or turnpikes, were set up in 1663. They began to be abolished by Parliament in 1827, and the last was removed in 1872.

l. 20. Fleet Street, one of the chief thoroughfares in London, running from the Temple to Ludgate Hill, derived its name from the streamlet called the Fleet.

Charing Cross, a triangular opening at the junction of the Strand, Whitehall, and Cockspur Street, so called from the cross of stone erected 1291-1294 to Eleanor, queen of Edward I., being the last stage at which the queen's body stopped previous to its interment in Westminster Abbey (Murray). The original cross was pulled down in 1647. Of Charing Cross and Fleet Street, Johnson said, "Fleet Street has a very animated appearance; but I think the full tide of human existence is at Charing Cross" (Boswell, p. 298, sub anno 1775).

l. 24. Demosthenes (B.C. 382-322), an Athenian, the most perfect orator the world has ever known; served his country as an envoy, a soldier, and a statesman: he wrote his *Philippics* and *Olynthiacs*, to rouse his countrymen to energetic action against their formidable enemy, Philip of Macedon. He served in the battle of Chaeronea (B.C. 338), when the combined army of the Thebans and Athenians was completely crushed by the Macedonians. Demosthenes was charged with cowardice, and defended himself in his masterpiece, the oration, "De Corona,"

so well that he was acquitted, and his adversary, Aeschines, was sent into exile. Subsequently Demosthenes was convicted of receiving bribes from one of Alexander's generals: he was banished, but recalled on the death of Alexander: after the victory of Antipater, an order was sent to the Athenians to deliver up Demosthenes, who fled to the temple of Neptune at Calauria and poisoned himself.

ll. 25, 26. In conversation with Sir Adam Ferguson, etc.; see Boswell, p. 234 (sub anno 1772).

Page 46, l. 4. Bolt Court, between Fleet Street and Holborn. Johnson's house was No. 8; he lived there from 1777 till his death in 1784. He died in the back room of the first floor. "Behind it was a garden, which he took delight in watering; a room on the ground floor was assigned to Mrs. Williams, and the whole of the two pair of stairs' floor was made a repository for his books, one of the rooms thereon being his study" (Sir John Hawkins).

l. 5. Socrates (B.C. 469-399), the great Athenian philosopher, talked, questioned, and discussed, not for pay, but from the love of truth and a sense of duty, and thus led the way to real knowledge. He wrote no book, he founded no school nor system of philosophy, but counted among his pupils Alcibiades, Critias, Xenophon, and Plato.

l. 6. Pericles was the greatest of Athenian statesmen; for forty years (from B.C. 469-429) he took part in public affairs, and for most of that time he was regarded as the head of the democratical party of the state. His funeral oration for those that perished in the first campaign of the Peloponnesian war has been preserved by Thucydides (Bk. II., 35-46).

l. 7. Sophocles (B.C. 495-406), the finest tragic poet of the Athenians; no less than one hundred and thirty plays have been ascribed to him: only seven are extant, viz., the *Ajax*, *Electra*, *Oedipus Tyrannus*, *Oedipus Coloneus*, *Antigone*, *Trachiniae*, and *Philoctetes*.

Aristophanes (about B.C. 444-380), the boldest and most successful exponent of the old Attic comedy; eleven of his plays are extant: the *Acharnians*, *Knights*, *Clouds*, *Wasps*, *Peace*, *Birds*, *Lysistrata*, *Thesmophoriazusae*, *Frogs*, *Ecclesiazusae*, and *Plutus*.

l. 8. Phidias (B.C. 490-432), the greatest sculptor and statuary of Greece; he was entrusted by Pericles with the superintendence of all works of art erected at Athens during the administration of that statesman; these works included the Propylaea and Parthenon on the Acropolis, parts of which may now be seen in the British Museum. The statues of "Athena" and the "Olympian Zeus" are the greatest of all his works.



1. 8. **Zeuxis**, a famous Greek artist, was probably born about 455 B.C.; he flourished B.C. 424-400. "Single figures were his favourite subjects; he could depict gods and heroes with sufficient majesty, but he excelled particularly in painting the softer graces of female beauty"; his masterpiece was the picture of "Helen," for the city of Croton in Magna Graecia. He is said to have painted a bunch of grapes so perfectly, that the birds came and pecked at it. Other famous works by him are: "The Infant Hercules strangling the Serpent," and the "Female Hippocentaur."

1. 9. **Æschylus** (B.C. 525-456), was regarded by the Athenians as the father of Attic tragedy. Seventy tragedies have been ascribed to him, of which only seven are extant: the *Persae*, *Seven against Thebes*, *Suppliants*, *Prometheus*, *Agamemnon*, *Cœphoræ*, and *Eumenides*. He gained his first prize for tragedy in B.C. 484; but in B.C. 468 he was defeated in a tragic contest by his younger rival, Sophocles. All his works are remarkable for their sublimity and grandeur.

1. 10. **rhapsodist** (Greek *ῥαψῳδός*, one that stitches or strings songs together), a reciter of epic poetry, sometimes a bard that recites his own poem, but especially one whose profession was to recite Homeric poetry.

11. 10, 11. the shield of Achilles, from Homer; see *Iliad*, XVII. 468, etc.

1. 11. the Death of Argus; another episode from Homer, see *Odyssey*, XVII. 292, etc.

1. 22. **Cockney** (M.E. *cocken-ey* = *cocken*, of cocks + *ey*, *ay*, (O.E. *aeg*), egg). (1) An egg: the egg of the common fowl, hen's egg; or perhaps, one of the small or misshapen eggs occasionally laid by fowls, still popularly called in some parts "cock's eggs"; in Ger. *hahneneier* (obs.). (2) A child brought up tenderly: a cockered child, pet, minion; hence a squeamish or effeminate fellow, a milk-sop (obs.). (3) A derisive appellation for a townsman, as the type of effeminacy, in contrast to the hardier inhabitants of the country. (4) One born in the city of London; strictly (according to Minshew), "one born within the sound of Bow Bells." Always more or less contemptuous or bantering, and particularly used to connote the characteristics in which the born Londoner is supposed to be inferior to other Englishmen.

1. 23. **black Frank**, Francis Barber, Johnson's black servant, of whom Boswell makes frequent mention (see p. 78 n., sub anno 1752, and elsewhere).

11. 26-33. He pronounced the French ... fingers; see Boswell, p. 322, sub anno 1775.

1. 34. **M. Simond**. M. Louis Simond made tours in Great Britain, Switzerland, Italy and Sicily, and wrote a journal of

each. Macaulay here refers to pp. 48-50 of Simond's *Journal of a Tour and Residence in Great Britain during the year 1810 and 1811*, where he writes as follows: "There are some customs here not quite consistent with that scrupulous delicacy on which the English pique themselves. Towards the end of dinner, and before the ladies retire, bowls of coloured glass full of water are placed before each person. All (women as well as men) stoop over it, sucking up some of the water and returning it often more than once, and with a spitting and washing noise, quite charming—the operation frequently assisted by a finger elegantly thrust into the mouth! This done and the hands dipped also, the napkins, and sometimes the tablecloth, are used to wipe hands and mouth. This, however, is nothing to what I am going to relate. Drinking much and long leads to unavoidable consequences. Will it be credited that in a corner of the very dining-room there is a certain convenient piece of furniture to be used by any body who wants it. ... Yet I find these very people up in arms against some uncleanly practices of the French: for instance, spitting on the floor, the carpet, etc., or spreading in full view a snuff-taking handkerchief, with an innocence of nastiness quite inconceivable. To take a lump of sugar with the fingers is another offence the French are apt to give, but of a lesser dye. Dr. Johnson was once exposed to an abomination of the latter sort during his tour in France, and the astonishment and wrath of the Doctor are faithfully related somewhere."

Page 47, ll. 3, 4. *the sage*; Boswell often speaks of Johnson by this name. See Boswell, p. 85 (sub anno 1753), and p. 129 (sub anno 1763), etc.

ll. 7, 8. *beyond the bills of mortality*, means beyond London. Bills of Mortality, recording the baptisms and deaths each week, were first compiled by the London Company of Parish Clerks after the plague in 1603.

ll. 9, 10. *Dr. Moore's Zeluco*. John Moore, M.D. (b. 1730, d. 1802), was a miscellaneous writer; he spent several years in travelling on the continent with the Duke of Hamilton. On his return he settled in London, and, in 1779, he published *A View of Society and Manners in France, Switzerland, and Germany*, followed in 1781 by *A View of Society and Manners in Italy*. In 1786 he published *Medical Sketches*, and in 1789 *Zeluco, or various views of Human Nature, taken from Life and Manners, foreign and domestic*. The scene of this novel is laid chiefly in Italy, and the hero has been compared to Smollett's "Count Fathom," described by Sir Walter Scott as a "complete picture of human depravity."

l. 19. *Johnson's visit to the Hebrides*, in company with Boswell, took place in 1773. He published, in 1775, *A Journey to*

the *Western Islands of Scotland*. Boswell wrote *A Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides*.

ll. 32-35. What does a man learn by travelling? ... pyramids of Egypt. This is an adaptation of a conversation between Johnson and Boswell (see Boswell, p. 494, sub anno 1778).

l. 35. History, etc.; see Boswell, p. 309 (sub anno 1775). Johnson—"We must consider how very little history there is: I mean real authentick history. That certain kings reigned, and certain battles were fought, we can depend upon as true; but all the colouring, all the philosophy of history is conjecture." Boswell—"Then, sir, you would reduce all history to no better than an almanack, a mere chronological series of remarkable events." To this passage Mr. Croker adds the following note: "This allusion was revived in our day, in a very striking manner, by Mr. (now Lord) Plunkett, in one of his speeches in the House of Commons, in which he said, that if not read in the spirit of prudence and experience, 'history was no better than an old almanack' (Par. Deb., 28th February, 1825).

Page 48, l. 3. Lord Hailes, David Dalrymple (b. 1726, d. 1792), among other works wrote the *Annals of Scotland*, published 1776-79, upon which Johnson pronounced a very decided opinion. "Lord Hailes's *Annals of Scotland* have not that painted form which is the taste of this age; but it is a book which will always sell, it has such a stability of dates, such a certainty of facts, and such a punctuality of citation. I never before read Scotch history with certainty" (see Boswell, p. 374, sub anno 1776).

l. 4. Robertson; see p. 33, l. 26, *supra*, and note.

ll. 14, 15. Threadneedle Street, or as Stow calls it, "Three-needle Street," runs from Bishopsgate Street to the Bank.

l. 16. Blackwall, a suburb to the east of London, in Poplar parish, at the conference of the Lea and the Thames. "To Poplar adjoineth Blackwall, a notable harbour for ships, so called because it is a wall of the Thames, and distinguished by the additional term black, from the black shrubs which grow on it, as on Blackheath, which is opposite to it on the other side of the river (or perhaps from the bleakness of the place and situation). [Dr. Woodward and Strype in Strype's *Appendix*, p. 102.]

l. 29. Tom Dawson; see p. 47, l. 9, *supra*.

Page 49, l. 19. Cyclops (κύκλωψ), means the round-eyed. In the *Odyssey* the Cyclopes are represented as a savage race of one-eyed giants living in Sicily; the singular, Cyclops, is always used of their chief, Polyphemus. In Hesiod we find three Cyclopes, Brontes, Steropes, and Arges, sons of Uranus and Gaia, who forged the thunderbolts of Zeus; a later tradition makes the caverns of Aetna their smithy, and all smiths are

reckoned their descendants (see Liddell and Scott's *Greek-English Lexicon*).

1. 20. *The Rehearsal*, a burlesque produced in 1671 by George Clifford, Duke of Buckingham, assisted by Butler, the author of *Hudibras*, Sprat, and Martin Clifford, Master of the Charterhouse. The poet "Bayes" of the farce was Dryden. It is "in great measure," says Hazlitt, 'from the comedy entitled the Knight of the burning Pestle,' by Francis Beaumont. Johnson's criticism, quoted here by Macaulay, is from Boswell, p. 649 (sub anno 1784).

1. 23. *Mannerism*, adherence to a particular style or manner; a characteristic mode of diction or action carried to excess. Leslie Stephen defines mannerism as "the repetition of certain forms of language in obedience to blind habit and without reference to their propriety in the particular case."

Page 50, l. 6. *padding*, the act of filling or stuffing with a pad (a derivative of *pad*, another form of *pod*, a bag).

1. 7. *bust* (It. *busto* = Sp. Pg. *busto*, Pr. *bustz*, rare. The primary sense in It. and the only sense in Pr. is "trunk, or upper portion of the body." The origin of the Romanic word has not been satisfactorily ascertained). (1) a piece of sculpture representing the head, shoulders, and breast of a person; (2) the upper front part of the human body; the bosom (especially of a woman). (Murray.)

*exquisite* (Lat. *exquisitus*, perf. part. of *exquirere*, to search out, from *ex*, out, and *quaerere*, to search, seek), when used as substantive, means a person (usually a man) who is over-nice in dress, etc. : a coxcomb, dandy, fop (Murray).

1. 14. *parodied*, altered and applied to a purpose different from that of the original; cf. "I have translated, or rather parodied a poem of Horace" (Pope). The substantive *parody* (Lat. *parodia*, Greek *παρωδία*, the same as *παρωδή*, a song sung beside, a parody) denotes the alteration of a poem to another subject; a burlesque, imitation. "Satiric poems, full of parodies, that is of verses patched up from great poets, and turned into another sense than their author intended them" (Dryden).

1. 16. Goldsmith said, etc. ; see Boswell, p. 258 (sub anno 1773).

1. 21. *fop*, a coxcomb, a dandy (this word is of Dutch origin).

*virtuoso*, a person skilled in the fine arts, antiquities, curiosities, and the like. "*Virtuoso* the Italians call a man who loves the noble arts and is a critic in them" (Dryden).

1. 22. *coquette* (a feminine form of *coquet*, which was originally a diminutive of *cog*, cock, in reference to the strutting gait and amorous characteristics of the cock; hence 'a beau,' and in the feminine *coquette*, 'a belle.' 1. A woman (more or less young)

who uses arts to gain the admiration and affection of men merely for the gratification of vanity or from a desire of conquest, and without any intention of responding to the feelings aroused : a woman who habitually trifles with the affections of men ; a flirt (Murray).

1. 23. Sir Piercy Shafton, in Sir Walter Scott's novel, *The Monastery*, is the grandson of one Overstitch, a tailor, and is drawn in ridicule of the pedantic courtiers of Elizabeth's time.

1. 24. Euphuistic, tending to, or resembling euphuism ; of the nature of euphuism ; characterized by euphuism. Chiefly in inaccurate sense ; abounding in 'high-flown' or affectedly refined expression. Euphuism is properly the name of a certain type of diction or style which originated in the imitation of Lyly's *Euphues*, and which was fashionable in literature and in the conversation of cultivated society at the end of the sixteenth and beginning of the seventeenth centuries. Hence applied to any similar kind of affectation in writing or speech, and (loosely) to affectedly periphrastic or 'high-flown' language in general (Murray). Holofernes (mentioned above, p. 36, l. 21) is a Euphuist.

1. 25. Euphelia. Two letters in the *Rambler* are signed with this name ; No. 42 describes the miseries of a modish lady in solitude, and No. 46 gives an account of the mischiefs of rural faction.

Rhodoclea wrote No. 62 in the *Rambler*, expressing the impatience of a young lady to see London.

Imlac the poet, the companion and favourite of Rasselas, the Prince of Abyssina. The history of Imlac is given in chapters VIII.-XII. of *Rasselas*. It is briefly as follows : He was the son of a merchant at Goiana ; receives 10,000 pieces of gold of his father, for the purpose of trading ; resolves on travelling instead of trading ; arrives at Surat and is plundered by his servants ; arrives at Agra the capital of Indostan ; proceeds through Persia and Arabia ; becomes a poet ; resides three years in Palestine ; becomes impatient to return to his native land ; on his return finds his father dead, his brothers gone, and hardly a person that knew him ; he retreats to the Happy Valley, till his departure with Rasselas and Nekayah.

1. 26. Seged, Emperor of Ethiopia. Nos. 204 and 205 of the *Rambler* are a history of Seged's attempts to obtain happiness during ten days' rest from the fatigues of war and the cares of government.

Cornelia signed No. 51 of the *Rambler*, describing the employments of a housewife in the country. The passage quoted by Macaulay is in the second paragraph of the letter.

1. 34. *Tranquilla* signed No. 119 of the *Rambler*, containing an account of her lovers *Venustulus*, *Fungosa*, *Flosculus*, *Dentatus*, and many others. The passage quoted by Macaulay occurs in the fourth paragraph of the letter.

Page 51, l. 5. Sir John Falstaff, etc.; a character in Shakespeare's *Henry IV.*, parts 1 and 2, and *Merry Wives of Windsor*; he is portrayed as a soldier, fat, witty, boastful, mendacious, and sensual to a degree; he is represented on one occasion as escaping from the house of Mistress Ford, disguised as the fat woman of Brentford. See *Merry Wives of Windsor*, Act iv., Sc. ii.

l. 7. Sir Hugh Evans, etc.; a Welsh parson in *Merry Wives of Windsor*, who sees Falstaff escaping in his disguise as a woman but does not recognize him. See *Merry Wives of Windsor*, Act iv., Sc. ii., l. 202, etc.

l. 10. We had something more to say. Probably that something was said twenty-five years later, in December, 1856, when he wrote the Account of "Samuel Johnson," which is printed amid his *Miscellaneous Writings and Speeches*.

l. 17. the omelet for Nugent. In speaking of the Literary Club, Mrs. Piozzi tells us that "It was a supper-meeting then, on a Friday night, and Dr. Nugent (who was a Roman Catholic) would sometimes order an omelet; and Johnson felt very painful sensations at the sight of that dish soon after Nugent's death, and cried, 'Ah, my poor dear friend, I shall never eat omelet with thee again!' quite in an agony." Dr. Nugent was one of the original members of the Literary Club, the others being Sir Joshua Reynolds, Dr. Johnson, Mr. Edmund Burke, Mr. Beauchlerk, Mr. Langton, Dr. Goldsmith, Mr. Chamier, and Sir John Hawkins. They met at the Turk's Head in Gerard Street, Soho, one evening in every week at seven, and generally continued their conversation till a pretty late hour (Boswell, p. 164, sub anno 1764). Nugent was a very constant attendant at the Club (Boswell, p. 177, sub anno 1766).

ll. 18, 19. those heads which live for ever on the canvas of Reynolds. Sir Joshua Reynolds painted portraits of Burke, Langton, Beauchlerk, Garrick, Gibbon, and himself.

ll. 19-28. the spectacles of Burke and the tall thin form of Langton, the courtly sneer of Beauchlerk and the beaming smile of Garrick, Gibbon tapping his snuff-box and Sir Joshua with his trumpet in his ear. In the foreground is that strange figure ... the gigantic body, the huge massy face, etc., etc. The picture sketched by Macaulay here is taken from Boswell's description of these men. There is a picture by James S. Doyle of "A Literary Party at Sir Joshua Reynolds'," in which the following

figures are grouped round an oval table, on which are set wine and fruit, etc. James Boswell, to the left at the end of the table, has a snuff-box in his hand; on his left sits Sir Joshua Reynolds, with his trumpet to his ear; on Boswell's right and a little in front of him, turned three parts round from the table, is Dr. Johnson, speaking; next to Johnson is Edmund Burke, seated back to us, with his face in profile, and spectacles on his nose, turned towards Johnson. Opposite Burke is David Garrick, his face bright with beaming intelligence; on Garrick's left is Pasquali de Paoli; on Burke's right is Charles Burney, with his right elbow on the table and his chin resting on his hand; all these are evidently listening to Johnson; while at the right end of the table opposite to Boswell and Johnson are T. Warton and Oliver Goldsmith, whispering together; and a black servant is entering the room behind Warton with a tray and decanters. There is an engraving of this picture, with autographs, published by Wm. Walker, London, July 1st, 1848; from this group we miss Gibbon and Langton, but it would be interesting to know whether the subject was suggested to the artist by this sketch in Macaulay. Several of the faces in the group are evidently copies of Reynolds' portraits.

## APPENDIX.

MACAULAY'S ESSAY is divided into three parts:

- A. An Attack upon Croker (pp. 1-21).
- B. A Criticism of Boswell's Character and Work (pp. 21-26).
- C. A Sketch of Johnson's Character and Life in London (pp. 26 to the end).

### A. CROKER AND HIS CRITICS (pp. 1-21).

In a book of this size it is impossible to enter at any great length into the controversy between Lord Macaulay and Mr. Croker; but, as Lord Macaulay has had his say in the text, it is only fair to Mr. Croker to quote the following extracts from letters by Macaulay, and from criticisms by other writers, and then the reader can draw his own conclusions concerning an encounter which seems to reflect but little credit on either of the combatants.

Macaulay writes as follows in letters to Hannah M. Macaulay (his sister):

"June 29, 1831.

"I am to review Croker's edition of *Bozzy*. It is wretchedly ill done. The notes are poorly written and shamefully inaccurate. There is, however, much curious information in it. The whole of the *Tour to the Hebrides* is incorporated with the *Life*. So are most of Mrs. Thrales's anecdotes, and much of Sir John Hawkins's lumbering book. The whole makes five large volumes. There is a most laughable sketch of *Bozzy*, taken by Sir T. Lawrence when young. I never saw a character so thoroughly hit off. I intend the book for you when I have finished my criticism on it. You are, next to myself, the best read Boswellite that I know. The lady whom Johnson abused for



flattering him was certainly according to Croker, Hannah More. Another ill-natured sentence about a Bath lady whom Johnson called 'empty headed' is also applied to your godmother."

"Saturday (end of July ?), 1831.

"That impudent, leering Croker congratulated the House on the proof which I had given of my readiness. He was afraid, he said, that I had been silent so long on account of the many allusions which had been made to Calne. Now that I had risen again he hoped that they should hear me often. See whether I do not dust that varlet's jacket for him in the next number of the Blue and Yellow. I detest him more than cold boiled veal."

"September 9, 1831.

"Half my article on Boswell went to Edinburgh the day before yesterday. I have, though I say it who should not say it, beaten Croker black and blue. Impudent as he is, I think he must be ashamed of the pickle in which I leave him."

"October 17, 1831.

"By the bye, my article on Croker has not only smashed his book, but has hit the Westminster Review incidentally. The Utilitarians took on themselves to praise the accuracy of the most inaccurate writer that ever lived, and gave as an instance of it a note in which, as I have shown, he makes a mistake of twenty years and more. John Mill is in a rage and says that they are in a worse scrape than Croker; John Murray says that it is a damned nuisance, and Croker looks across the House of Commons at me with a leer of hatred, which I repay with a gracious smile of pity." (See *Lord Macaulay's Life and Letters*, by Trevelyan, Vol. I., pp. 233-254.)

And after venting his hatred against Mr. Croker in this slashing article of wild and wanton rhetoric, Macaulay again returns to the charge in his review of Madame D'Arblay's *Diary*. "There was no want of low minds and bad hearts in the generation which witnessed her first appearance. There was the envious Kenrick and the savage Wolcot, the asp George Stevens, and the polecat John Williams. It did not, however, occur to them to search the parish register of Lynor in order that they might be able to twit a lady with having concealed her age. That truly chivalrous exploit was reserved for a bad writer of our own time, whose spite she had provoked by not furnishing him with materials for a worthless edition of Boswell's *Life of Johnson*, some sheets of which our readers have doubtless seen round parcels of better books."

On the other hand, Mr. Louis J. Jennings, the editor of *Croker's Correspondence and Diaries*, writes thus: "In all his articles and in everything that he did, accuracy and truthfulness were most diligently sought for by Mr. Croker." Again, "all the world now admits, he brought together a store of facts and elucidations which added much to the interest of Boswell's pages, and which but for him would never have been accessible to the public."

"It was a work carried on, through two long years of toil, its pages enriched by hundreds of contributions from men who had access to all possible sources of information (e.g. Sir W. Scott, Alexander Chalmers, Sir James Mackintosh, Thomas Moore, Isaac D'Israeli, Sir Henry Ellis, the Marquis Wellesley, etc., etc.)—it was this work that Lord Macaulay found it consistent with his sense of truth and justice to pronounce 'a worthless edition of Boswell's Life of Johnson, some sheets of which our readers have doubtless seen round parcels of better books.'

"To any one who has read Mr. Croker's *Boswell*, or who has ever taken the trouble to look through the notes, this judgment will appear so unfair and so unreasonable that a suspicion must inevitably be engendered that it was not arrived at by the legitimate exercise of the critical faculty, but must have been prompted by some personal and unworthy motive. The existence of such a motive was well understood at the time the onslaughts were made, and more recently it has been laid bare to the world by the publication of Macaulay's own *Memoirs and Letters*. The attack defeated itself by its very violence, and therefore it did the book no harm whatever. Between forty and fifty thousand copies have been sold, although Macaulay boasted with great glee that he had 'smashed' it.

"The edition of Boswell was not published till 1831. For some months previously in the House of Commons, there had been several sharp encounters between Croker and Macaulay in the debates on Reform. . . . And more than once Mr. Croker gained a marked and telling advantage over his antagonist. He had greater felicity in reply than Macaulay, and on more than one occasion he utterly demolished an elaborately prepared and showy but unsubstantial speech of the 'brilliant essayist,' Macaulay, as it clearly appears from his own letters, was irritated beyond measure by Croker; he grew to 'detest' him. . . . The animus with which the article (in the *Edinburgh Review*) was written was at once obvious to all fair-minded men."

"It will be evident," remarked one journal (the *Spectator*), "that the book has been taken up by one determined to punish the member of Parliament in the editor, and one who . . . is determined to sacrifice truth to brilliancy."

"Everybody is aware," remarked the chief literary newspaper of England (the *Athenæum*), "that the article was originally

levelled less against Mr. Croker the editor than Mr. Croker the politician, and the abuse which may have been relished in times of hot passion and party vindictiveness reads in our calmer days as so much bad taste and bad feeling."

The American public were never for a moment deceived by Macaulay's vituperation. The book was held in esteem, and had a large sale in the United States, and American writers have always done it justice. "Mr. Croker," says one whose industry and ability are equally remarkable (Alibone in his *Dictionary of Authors*), "deserves great credit for his excellent edition of *Boswell*. We venture this assertion, notwithstanding the unaccountable attempt of Mr. Macaulay to depreciate the value of Mr. Croker's editorial labours." The "attempt" it has been shown is not so "unaccountable" now as it was when these words were written. (See *Croker's Correspondence and Diaries*, Vol. II., pp. 24-49.)

One of the chief objections to Mr. Croker's work is the fact that, instead of relegating anecdotes by Piozzi, Hawkins, Murphy, and Tyers, to the notes or to the appendix, he has incorporated them with Boswell's, uniting or separating the various parts by brackets. Carlyle consequently writes as follows: "Never before was the full virtue of the bracket made manifest. You begin a sentence under Boswell's guidance, thinking to be carried happily through it by the same; but no; in the middle, perhaps after your semicolon, and some consequent 'for,'—starts up one of these bracket-ligatures and stitches you in from half a page to twenty or thirty pages of a Hawkins, Tyers, Murphy, Piozzi: so that often one must make the old sad reflection, 'Where we are we know; whither we are going, no man knoweth!' It is truly said also, 'There is much between the cup and the lip,' but here the case is still sadder; for not till after consideration can you ascertain, now when the cup is *at* the lip, what liquor it is you are imbibing: whether Boswell's French wine which you began with, or some Piozzi's gingerbeer or Hawkins's entire, or perhaps some other great Brewer's penny-swipes or even alegar, which has been surreptitiously substituted instead thereof. A situation almost original, not to be tried a second time! But in fine, what ideas Mr. Croker entertains of a literary whole, and the thing called Book, and how the very Printer's Devils did not rise in mutiny against such a conglomeration as this, and refuse to print it, may remain a problem. (Carlyle's *Critical and Miscellaneous Essays*, "Boswell's Life of Johnson.")

Dr. G. Birkbeck Hill writes thus: "I should be wanting in justice were I not to acknowledge that I owe much to the labours of Mr. Croker. No one can know better than I do his great failings as an editor. His remarks and criticisms far too often deserve the contempt that Macaulay so liberally poured on them.

Without being deeply versed in books, he was shallow in himself. Johnson's strong character was never known to him. Its breadth and length and depth and height were far beyond his measure. With his writings even he shows few signs of being familiar. Boswell's genius, which even to Lord Macaulay was foolishness, was altogether hidden from his dull eye. No one surely but a 'blockhead,' a 'barren rascal,' could with scissors and paste-pot have mangled the biography which of all others is the delight and the boast of the English-speaking world. He is careless in small matters, and his blunders are numerous. These I have only noticed in the more important cases, remembering what Johnson somewhere points out, that the triumphs of one critic over another only fatigue and disgust the reader. Yet he has added considerably to our knowledge of Johnson. He knew men who had intimately known both the hero and his biographer, and he gathered much that but for his care would have been lost for ever. He was diligent and successful in his search after Johnson's letters, of so many of which Boswell with all his persevering and pushing diligence had not been able to get a sight." (See Dr. Birkbeck Hill's Preface to *Boswell's Life of Johnson*, in 6 vols. 1887.)

Lord Brougham mentions an instance of Mr. Croker's being misled by the narrative of Sir Walter Scott, from neither of them having attended to the dates; but in spite of such error he declares, "The edition of Boswell by my able and learned friend, Mr. Croker, is a valuable accession to literature, and the well-known accuracy of that gentleman gives importance to his labours." (See *Men of Letters of the Time of George II.*, by Henry Lord Brougham.)

Mr. Fitzgerald finds fault with Mr. Croker's system of editing because of (1) his wholesale interpolations; (2) his omissions, and alterations of the text. He concludes his criticism thus: "But after all these faults—faults of disfigurement—Croker's *Boswell* remains a remarkable monument of industry, research, and information of a very interesting kind. He himself possessed great stores of curious learning, and from long practice in reviewing the important memoirs that came out in his time had acquired the knowledge of much secret political history as it is called. When his prejudices did not disturb him, he deals with these matters in a very interesting way. He was, however, but too often under the influence of a *parti pris*. But his signal advantage was the favour he enjoyed of communication with personages who had actually known or who were indirectly connected with Johnson, while his position as a political *littérateur* of eminence with the command of a great review, opened to him large stores of private papers. No one seems to have been more universally assisted or to have been so successful in accumulating curious details, important letters and

the like. . . . Our obligations to him, therefore, are of the most substantial kind. The more reason that his work should be cleared of its remaining blemishes."

Algernon Charles Swinburne in his *Recollections of Professor Jowett* writes as follows: "With the unconscious malevolence of self-righteousness which distorted the critical appreciations and discoloured the personal estimates of Lord Macaulay, the most ardent Tory could not have had less sympathy than had this far more loyal and large-minded Whig" (Professor Jowett).

#### B. CRITICISM OF BOSWELL'S CHARACTER (pp. 21-26).

Macaulay is evidently bent on writing a slashing article, and not content with belabouring Croker unmercifully for twenty pages, he now directs his rage and rhetoric against the inoffensive Bozzy. Although he acknowledges that Boswell has written the best of biographies, he has nothing but abuse for the biographer; he reviles him as bore, laughing-stock, bigot, sot, eavesdropper, dunce, parasite, and coxcomb. Carlyle likewise, both in his *Miscellanies* and in his lecture on "The Hero as Man of Letters," finds nothing to admire in Boswell's character except his hero-worship. After reviewing the book, he dismisses the author thus: "One word, in spite of our haste, must be granted to poor Bozzy. He passes for a mean, inflated gluttonous creature; and was so in many senses. Yet the fact of his reverence for Johnson will ever remain noteworthy. The foolish conceited Laird, the most conceited man of his time, approaching in such awestruck attitude the great, dusty, irascible Pedagogue in his mean garret there; it is a genuine reverence for excellence, a worship for Heroes at a time when neither Heroes nor worship were surmised to exist."

But for the book itself there is no end to his praise: "As for the Book itself, questionless the universal favour entertained for it is well merited. In worth as a Book we have rated it beyond any other product of the eighteenth century; all Johnson's own writings, laborious, and in their kind genuine above most, stand on a quite inferior level to it: already, indeed, these are becoming obsolete for this generation; and for some future generation may be valuable chiefly as Prolegomena, and expository scholia to this Johnsoniad of Boswell."

This separation of the biography and the biographer, the one to honour the other to dishonour, seems unreasonable: a mere "dunce, parasite, and coxcomb" could not have produced "one of the best books in the world." Indeed, instead of being a "dunce" Boswell has shown sound literary judgment in his work; and it is hard to believe that men like Reynolds, Burke,

Gibbon, Warton, and even Johnson himself would have tolerated a mere "parasite," "a man of the meanest and feeblest intellect." There is, on the other hand, much testimony to his "irresistible good humour," his "agreeable manners," his "perpetual cheerfulness," and "usual vivacity." Mrs. Thrale, who was no great lover of Boswell, acknowledges that "it is very convenient to travel with him, for there is no house where he is not received with kindness and respect." Dr. Birkbeck Hill (in *Dr. Johnson, his Friends and his Critics*) has done much to defend Boswell from Macaulay's onslaught, and Professor Jowett, too, was one of his stoutest champions. To quote Mr. Swinburne again, "He (Professor Jowett) frankly and modestly disclaimed the honour of being what he really sometimes seemed to be, a living concordance of Shakespeare: to Boswell alone, would he admit, with a smile of satisfaction, that he was or that he might be. And year after year did he renew the promise to fulfil his project, and redeem his engagement to undertake the vindication of Boswell as genius and as man. Carlyle and Macaulay, with all their antagonistic absurdities and ineptitudes of misconception and misrepresentation, would then have been refuted and exposed. It is grievous to think that the time spent on translation and commentary should have left him no leisure for so delightful and so serviceable an enterprise."

#### C. A SKETCH OF JOHNSON'S CHARACTER AND LIFE IN LONDON.

In a letter to the Hon. H. S. Conway, Oct. 6, 1785, Horace Walpole writes: "The more one learns of Johnson the more preposterous assemblage he appears of strong sense, of the lowest bigotry and prejudices, of pride, brutality, fretfulness, and vanity." Macaulay appears to have adopted this estimate as true, and in his essay to have merely written it out at greater length. Thus (p. 36) he writes: "The characteristic peculiarity of his (Johnson's) intellect was the union of great powers with low prejudices"; and (pp. 34 and 35) he dwells upon "the constant rudeness and the occasional ferocity of his manners," "the roughness and violence which he showed in society," and quotes "eo immitior quia toleraverat." Carlyle, however, formed a far different estimate of Johnson, and ascribed to him "a merciful and tenderly affectionate nature." Again Macaulay writes (p. 35), "for the suffering which a harsh word inflicts upon a delicate mind he (Johnson) had no sympathy"; Miss Burney, on the contrary, tells us that he was always sorry when he made bitter speeches, and Mr. Murphy assures us that "when the fray was over he generally softened into repentance, and by

conciliating measures took care that no animosity should be left ranking in the breast of his antagonist." This is borne out by Boswell, who describes (see pp. 267 and 268) how Johnson and Goldsmith quarrelled, how Goldsmith in the evening sat brooding over Johnson's reprimand to him, how Johnson perceived this and said aside to some of us: "I'll make Goldsmith forgive me," and then called to him in a loud voice, "Dr. Goldsmith, something passed to-day when you and I dined; I ask your pardon." Goldsmith answered placidly, "It must be much from you, sir, that I take ill." And so at once the difference was over, and they were on as easy terms as ever, and Goldsmith rattled away as usual. Many other contradictions and discrepancies of this kind might be quoted, but these are perhaps sufficient to show that Macaulay's sketch of Johnson's character is by no means exhaustive, and at times is hardly true. We know that Johnson's love for little children was great, that his filial affection was strong, that his devotion to his *Tetty* was tender and true; but neither Walpole nor Macaulay seemed able to perceive this softer side of his character, or to appreciate the tender heart that throbbed beneath the sage's rough exterior. If Carlyle had held the same opinion of Johnson as Macaulay held he would not have chosen him as one of his types of "The Hero as Man of Letters." Read what Carlyle says, "As for Johnson I have always considered him to be, by nature, one of our great English souls. A strong and noble man; so much left undeveloped in him to the last; in a kindlier element what might he not have been—Poet, Priest, Sovereign, Ruler! . . . Figure him there with his scrofulous diseases, with his great greedy heart, and unspeakable chaos of thoughts; stalking mournful as a stranger in this Earth; eagerly devouring what spiritual thing he could come at; school languages, and other merely grammatical stuff, if there were nothing better! The largest soul that was in all England; and provision made for it of 'fourpence halfpenny a day.' Yet a giant invincible soul; a true man's. One remembers always that story of the shoes at Oxford; the rough seamy-faced, raw-boned college servitor, stalking about, in winter season, with his shoes worn out; how the charitable Gentleman Commoner secretly places a new pair at his door, and the raw-boned servitor, lifting them, looking at them near, with his dim eyes, with what thoughts—pitches them out of window! Wet feet, mud, frost, hunger, or what you will; but not beggary; we cannot stand beggary! Rude, stubborn self-help here; a whole world of squalor, rudeness, confused misery and want, yet of nobleness and manfulness withal. It is a type of the man's life, this pitching away of the shoes. An original man;—not a second-hand, borrowing or begging man. . . . Yet with all this rugged pride of manhood and self-help, was there ever soul more tenderly affectionate, loyally submissive to what

was really higher than he? Great souls are always loyally submissive, reverent to what is over them; only small mean souls are otherwise. . . . It was in virtue of his *sincerity*, of his speaking still in some sort from the heart of nature, though in the current artificial dialect, that Johnson was a prophet. . . . Mark, too, how little Johnson boasts of his 'sincerity.' He has no suspicion of his being particularly sincere, of his being particularly anything! A hard-struggling, weary-hearted man, or 'scholar' as he calls himself, trying hard to get some honest livelihood in the world, not to starve, but to live,—without stealing! A noble unconsciousness is in him. He does not 'engrave Truth on his watch-seal'; no, but he stands by truth, speaks by it, works and lives by it. . . . Johnson was a Prophet to his people; preached a Gospel to them,—as all like him always do. The highest Gospel he preached we may describe as a kind of Moral Prudence: 'in a world where much is to be done, and little is to be known,' see how you will *do it*. . . . Such Gospel Johnson preached and taught, coupled theoretically and practically with this other great Gospel, 'Clear your mind of cant.'"

Dr. Birkbeck Hill, in *Dr. Johnson, his Friends and his Critics*, dwells upon one trait of Johnson's character which has escaped the notice of many of his biographers, viz., his lively, genial joviality. "Besides this tenderness there was a liveliness, a comicality, we might even say a joviality in Johnson's character which is not at all shown in the pages of Macaulay, and but little even in those of Boswell. It was at Streatham that this side of his character was most shown, and of the life at Streatham Boswell knew very little. He did his best to get an account of it but he failed. He went down to Windsor and asked Miss Burney for her help. 'My help?' said Miss Burney. 'Yes madam; you must give me some of your choice little notes of the Doctor's; we have seen him long enough upon stilts; I want to show him in a new light. Grave Sam, and great Sam, and solemn Sam, and learned Sam—all these he has appeared over and over. Now I want to entwine a wreath of the graces across his brow; I want to show him as gay Sam, agreeable Sam, pleasant Sam; so you must help me with some of his beautiful billets to yourself.' It was a pity that Miss Burney would not yield, for the notes she could have given Boswell would, when worked into 'the Life,' have thrown a great light on Johnson's character."

From all this we gather that Johnson's character, like that of most other men, is full of contradictions; to understand and reconcile these, we must remember that in Johnson great powers of intellect, strong appetites and passions, and noble aspirations of soul were joined to a body clumsy, coarse, and diseased. Between these four factors of his being there were unending



struggles, and the victory sometimes of one factor and sometimes of another resulted in the contradictions which seem to have puzzled some of his biographers. The student must not be content with this sketch by Macaulay; he should study Boswell again and again; he should read Carlyle, Leslie Stephen, and Birkbeck Hill; he should glance at Piozzi, Sir John Hawkins, Miss Burney, Murphy, Napier, Fitzgerald, and others, and then try to delineate fairly and without prejudice the character of this "great English soul." He need not hide or white-wash its faults, but should throw the pure light of love and sympathy upon all the good traits of its strong, truthful, and affectionate nature.

## INDEX TO THE NOTES.

*(The figures refer to pages of this book.)*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p> Abridgment, 72.<br/> Achilles, shield of, 111.<br/> Addison, 84, 88.<br/> Aeschylus, 111.<br/> Albemarle Street, 93.<br/> Alfieri, 78.<br/> Alnaschar, 80.<br/> Ambrose Philips, 85.<br/> American Congress, 105.<br/> Annual Register, 57.<br/> Argus, death of, 111.<br/> Argyle, how impertinent he<br/> was to the Duchess of, 76.<br/> Aristophanes, 110.<br/> Author generated by the cor-<br/> ruption of a bookseller, 67.<br/> <br/> Bacon, Lord, 105.<br/> Bagnio, 95.<br/> Bate, Mr. Henry, 56.<br/> Beattie, James, 54, 98.<br/> Beaucher, Topham, 74, 75, 82.<br/> Beloe, William, 72.<br/> Bentley, Richard, 64.<br/> Betty Careless, 94.<br/> Bills of mortality, 112.<br/> Binding it as a crown unto him,<br/> 75.<br/> Black Frank, 111.<br/> Blackmore, Sir Richard, 107.<br/> Blackwall, 113.<br/> Blair, conversation with, 63. </p> | <p> Bolingbroke, 89.<br/> Bolt Court, 110.<br/> Bore, 74.<br/> Borgia, Caesar, 79.<br/> Boswell's son, 80.<br/> Boy of fifteen, intellectual<br/> capacity of, 78.<br/> Boyse, 94, 99.<br/> Bread which is the bitterest,<br/> etc., 99.<br/> Brooke's Club, 62.<br/> Browbeat, 101.<br/> Bruce, King Robert, 57.<br/> Bulk, 92.<br/> Burgoyne, General, 59.<br/> Burke, 82, 97.<br/> Bust, 114.<br/> Byng, 59.<br/> Byron, Lord, 79.<br/> By that bread which is the<br/> bitterest of all food, 99.<br/> By that deferred hope, etc, 99.<br/> <br/> Caesar Borgia, 79.<br/> Caius, Dr., 79.<br/> Campbell, 103.<br/> Cant, 103.<br/> Capillaire, 68.<br/> Carter, Mrs., 101.<br/> Casaubon, Isaac, 64.<br/> Castle of Indolence, 107.<br/> Casuists, 80. </p> |
|---|---|

- Cave, Mr., 101.  
 Celtic genealogies and poems, 101.  
 Champagne, 71, 94.  
 Charing Cross, 109.  
 Churchill, Rev. Charles, 80, 98, 108.  
 Clarendon, Edward, Hyde, Earl of, 77.  
 Clarendon's History, one of the finest passages from, 58.  
 Club, that celebrated, 81.  
 Cock Lane, 101.  
 Cockloft, 97.  
 Cockney, 111.  
 Collins, 96.  
 Common friend, 68.  
 Common side of King's Bench Prison, etc., 91.  
 Compters, 91.  
 Congreve, 84.  
 Coptic, 64.  
 Copyright, 71.  
 Coquette, 114.  
 Corderius, 65.  
 Cork's, how tipsy he was at Lady, 76.  
 Cornelia, 115.  
 Corsica, Boswell, 75.  
 Coxcomb, 79.  
 Cradock, 70.  
 Crassa ignorantia, 60.  
 Crassa negligentia, 60.  
 Creation, The, 107.  
 Crib, 95.  
 Croft, Sir Herbert, 53.  
 Croker's skill in translating Latin, 65.  
 Curll and Osborne, 98.  
 Customs, 88.  
 Cyclops, 113.  
 Danton, 79.  
 Dawson, Tom, 113.  
 Davies, Tom, 66.  
 Dedication, 93.  
 Deferred hope, etc., 100.  
 Demosthenes, 109.  
 Denham, 106.  
 Derrick, 53.  
 Diatessaron, 73.  
 Diodorus, 71.  
 Directions to servants, 109.  
 Distichs translated from some old Latin lines, 66.  
 Dogma of the old physiologists, 67.  
 Dorset, the magnificent, 88.  
 Dovetailed, 71.  
 Dryden, 106.  
 Duglas, James de, 57.  
 Dunce, 78.  
 Dunciad, 74, 95, 98, 99.  
 Eclipse, 74.  
 Effrontery, 77.  
 Entailing of landed estates, dissertations on, 78.  
 Eo immitior quia toleraverat, 100.  
 Epitaphs, Latin, 108.  
 Epitaph, English, 109.  
 Epitaph on Goldsmith, 109.  
 Erskine, Lord, 68.  
 Evans, Sir Hugh, 116.  
 Euphelia, 115.  
 Euphuistic, 115.  
 Expurgation, 69.  
 Expurgated editions, 72.  
 Exquisite, 114.  
 Fairfax, 106.  
 Fallacy (distinguished from falsehood), 68.  
 Falstaff, Sir John, 116.  
 Fellow townsman, 83.  
 Ferguson, Sir Adam, 105, 110.  
 Fielding, 97.  
 Fingal, 102, 108.  
 Fisherman, etc., 101.  
 Fleet Prison, 91.  
 Fleet Street, 109.  
 Fluellen, 79.  
 Fop, 114.  
 Forbes, Sir William, 54.  
 Frank, 81, 111.

- Garrick, David, 62, 76, 83.  
 Gay, 86.  
 Genealogies and poems, the  
     celtic, 102.  
 Ghost-hunt to Cock Lane, 101.  
 Gibbon, 82, 98.  
 Gilpin's translation of Bunyan,  
     73.  
 Gipsy, 95.  
 Goldsmith, Oliver, 76, 82, 98,  
     100, 105, 109, 114.  
 Good-natured man, the, 100.  
 Granville, 66.  
 Gray, 97, 103.  
 Grub Street, 92, 99.  
 Gulliver's Travels, 106.  
  
 Hack, 99.  
 Hailes, Lord, 113.  
 Hair of the dog that had bitten  
     him, 75.  
 Halifax, 91.  
 Hamilton, Gerard, 82.  
 Harley, 89.  
 Harmonies, 72.  
 Hawkins, Sir John, 70.  
 Hebrides, Tour to the, 72, 112.  
 Herald, Morning, 57.  
 Hereditary gentility, disserta-  
     tions on, 78.  
 Herodotus, 71.  
 Hierocles, 77.  
 Hieroglyphic, 109.  
 Highland seers, 102.  
 Hippolytus and Phaedra, 84.  
 History, 113.  
 Hitch, 71.  
 Hodge, 81.  
 Hogarth, 101.  
 Holofernes, 100.  
 Homer in his Odyssey, to  
     Claudian in his Rape of  
     Proserpine, 64.  
 Homer and Virgil, 106,  
 Home's play, 62.  
 Hoole, 106.  
 Horace, 63.  
 Hudibras, 103.  
  
 Hughes, John, 85.  
 Hume, David, 73.  
 Hutchinson, Mrs., 73.  
 Hypochondriac whimsies, 76.  
  
 Ignorantia, crassa, 60.  
 Imlac the Poet, 115.  
 Imprest, 88.  
 Inquisitiveness, 77.  
 Islington, etc., 109.  
  
 Johnson's benevolence, 100.  
 Johnson defends Prior's tales,  
     63.  
 Johnson, Hogarth's observation  
     on, 101.  
 Johnson's Life of Tickell, 65.  
 Johnson preferred Pope's Iliad  
     to Homer's, 106.  
 Johnson preferred Latin epi-  
     taphs, 108.  
 Johnson took Master's Degree,  
     62.  
 Johnson took Doctor's Degree,  
     63.  
 Johnson visits Oxford, 63.  
 Johnson's visit to the Hebrides,  
     112.  
 Jones, Sir William, 66, 83, 98.  
 Jones, Tom, 107.  
 Jortin, 68.  
 Justice Shallow, 79.  
 Juvenal, 63.  
  
 Kenrick, William, 81.  
 King's Bench Prison, 91.  
 Kitcat Club, 92.  
  
 La Fontaine, 77.  
 Landlady, the sheriff's officer  
     and the bottle of Madeira,  
     61.  
 Langton, 82.  
 Latin, Croker's skill in trans-  
     lating, 65.  
 Latin epitaphs, 108.  
 Lawrence, Dr., 65.  
 Lean kine, etc., 91.

Leg of Mutton, 53.  
 Leicester house, 91.  
 Lessons, Morning and Evening,  
 69.  
 Levett, old Mr., 81.  
 Librum, 63.  
 Locke, John, 85.

Macleod, Colonel, 76.  
 Macpherson's Ossian, 62, 108.  
 Madeira, the landlady, the  
 sheriff's officer, and the  
 bottle of, 61.  
 Mainwaring, Arthur, 88.  
 Malcolm, Sir Reginald, 68.  
 Mallet, 96.  
 Malone, 68.  
 Malvolio, 80.  
 Mannerism, 114.  
 Mansfield, Lord, 55.  
 Markland, 68.  
 Mason, 98.  
 Mattaire, 66.  
 Maudlin, 75.  
 Mawbey, Sir Joseph, 61.  
 Milton, Mrs. Siddons', 73.  
 Mitre tavern, 108.  
 Mohawk, 95.  
 Montague, 86, 89.  
 Montrose, Marquis of, 58.  
 Morning Herald, 57.  
 Morning Post, 57.  
 Mount Scoundrel in the Fleet,  
 91.  
 Murphy, 70.  
 Mutual friend for common  
 friend, 68.  
 Negligentia, crassa, 60.  
 Newton, Sir Isaac, 72, 83.  
 Nugent, the omelet for, 116.

Officiousness, 77.  
 Omelet for Nugent, 116.  
 Ordinary, 93, 97.  
 Original, 99.  
 Osborne, 98.  
 Ossian, Macpherson's, 62.

Our soul assuredly should not  
 spare for his crying, 63.  
 Oxford, 87.

Padding, 114.  
 Paine, Tom, 75.  
 Palace of Truth, 80.  
 Pamela, Richardson's, 90.  
 Paoli, Pascal, 75.  
 Paradox, 101.  
 Parasite, 78.  
 Park's Royal and Noble Au-  
 thors, 56.  
 Parnell, Thomas, 87.  
 Parodied, 114.  
 Paternoster Row, 93.  
 Paul Pry, 77.  
 Pelham, 68.  
 Pension, 97.  
 Pepys, Samuel, 73.  
 Percy, 106.  
 Pericles, 110.  
 Perspicacity, want of, 66.  
 Phidias, 110.  
 Philips, Ambrose, 85.  
 Piozzi, Mrs., 61.  
 Piozzi, serious inaccuracy of  
 Mrs., 61.  
 Piracy, 71.  
 Pococurante, 104.  
 Pope, 95, 99, 106, 108.  
 Pope's epitaphs, 108.  
 Porridge Island, 95.  
 Post, the Morning, 57.  
 Prior, Matthew, 63, 86.  
 Prudery, 69.  
 Pry, Paul, 77.  
 Puella, 63.  
 Puritan casuists, 80.  
 Quirk, 105.  
 Race, 73.  
 Ralpho, 103.  
 Ramsay, Allan, 54.  
 Ranting, 78, 104.  
 Rasselas, 105.  
 Register, Annual, 57.

- Rehearsal, The, 114.  
 Reports, 105.  
 Reynolds, Sir Joshua, 81, 116.  
 Rhapsodist, 111.  
 Rhodoclea, 115.  
 Richardson, 90, 96.  
 Rifacimenti, 72.  
 Robertson, 97, 113.  
 Roscommon, Lord, 102.  
 Roundhead, 103.  
 Rousseau, 79.  
 Rowe, Nicholas, 85.  
 Royal Progress, 66.  
 Rymer, 108.  
  
 Sage, The, 112.  
 St. George's Fields, 92.  
 St. James' palace, 91.  
 St. John's Gate, 99.  
 St. Martin's church, 92.  
 St. Vitus's dance, 81.  
 Saratoga, General Burgoyne  
     surrendered at, 59.  
 Savage, 94, 99.  
 Scepticism, 101.  
 Scriblerus club, 93.  
 Scrofula, 81.  
 Secular Ode, quotation from,  
     64.  
 Seasons, Thomson's, 90.  
 Second sight, 102.  
 Sectaries, 103.  
 Seged, 115.  
 September 1831, 53.  
 Shafton, Sir Percy, 115.  
 Shakespeare Jubilee, 75.  
 Shallow, Justice, 79.  
 Sheridan, 53.  
 Shield of Achilles, 111.  
 Shoe Lane, 93.  
 Should God create another Eve,  
     73.  
 Siddons' Milton, Mrs. 73.  
 Simond, 111.  
 Sin of drinking coffee on Good  
     Friday, 103.  
 Slave-trade, dissertations on  
     the, 78.  
  
 Smith, Adam, 72, 98.  
 Smith, Edmund, 84.  
 Smollett, 109.  
 Socrates, 110.  
 Solecism, 69.  
 Solomon, the charm of, 101.  
 Solomon's singers, 103.  
 Sophistical, 78.  
 Sophocles, 110.  
 Spectator, Royal Progress in  
     last volume of, 66.  
 Spunging-houses, 91.  
 Squire Western, 104.  
 Stage-copy of a play, 73.  
 Statute book, 105.  
 Stepney, 86.  
 Steele, 87.  
 Stowell, Lord, 82.  
 Strahan, Dr., 65.  
 Streatham Park, 99.  
 Suetonius, 71.  
 Sunderland, 59.  
 Swift, 87, 109.  
  
 Tacitus, 71, 77.  
 Tavistock, Lady, 100.  
 Taylor, a coarse and stupid  
     jest of Dr., 69.  
 Thermopylae, 109.  
 Third night, 93.  
 Thirlby, 68, 69.  
 Thomson, 90, 96, 97, 107.  
 Thrale, Mr., 55.  
 Thrale, Mrs., 55, 56, 68, 70.  
 Threadneedle Street, 113.  
 Thucydides, 70.  
 Tickell, 65, 66, 88.  
 Titi, Prince, 56.  
 Toad-eating, 77.  
 Tokay, 94.  
 Tour to the Hebrides, 72.  
 Townshend, Charles, 59.  
 Townshend, Lord, 59.  
 Tranquilla, 116.  
 Transfusion, 71.  
 Traveller, Goldsmith's, 105.  
 Travelling, what does a man  
     gain by, 113.

Tristram Shandy, 107.

Truth, Palace of, 80.

Turnpike gate, 109.

Twaddling, 78.

Tyers, 70.

Typographical, 53.

$\theta$ ,  $\phi$ , 64.

Unicorn, 95.

Ut per læve severos | Effundat  
junctura unguis, 71.

Valetudinarian, 100.

Vicar of Wakefield, 61.

Virtuoso, 114.

Waller, 105.

Walpole, Horace, 69, 76.

Walpole, Sir Robert, 89.

Warburton, 69.

Wartons, The, 81, 97.

Wesley, John, 101.

Westminster Hall, 105.

Whimsies, hypochondriacal,  
76.

Williams, Sir Charles Hanbury,  
90.

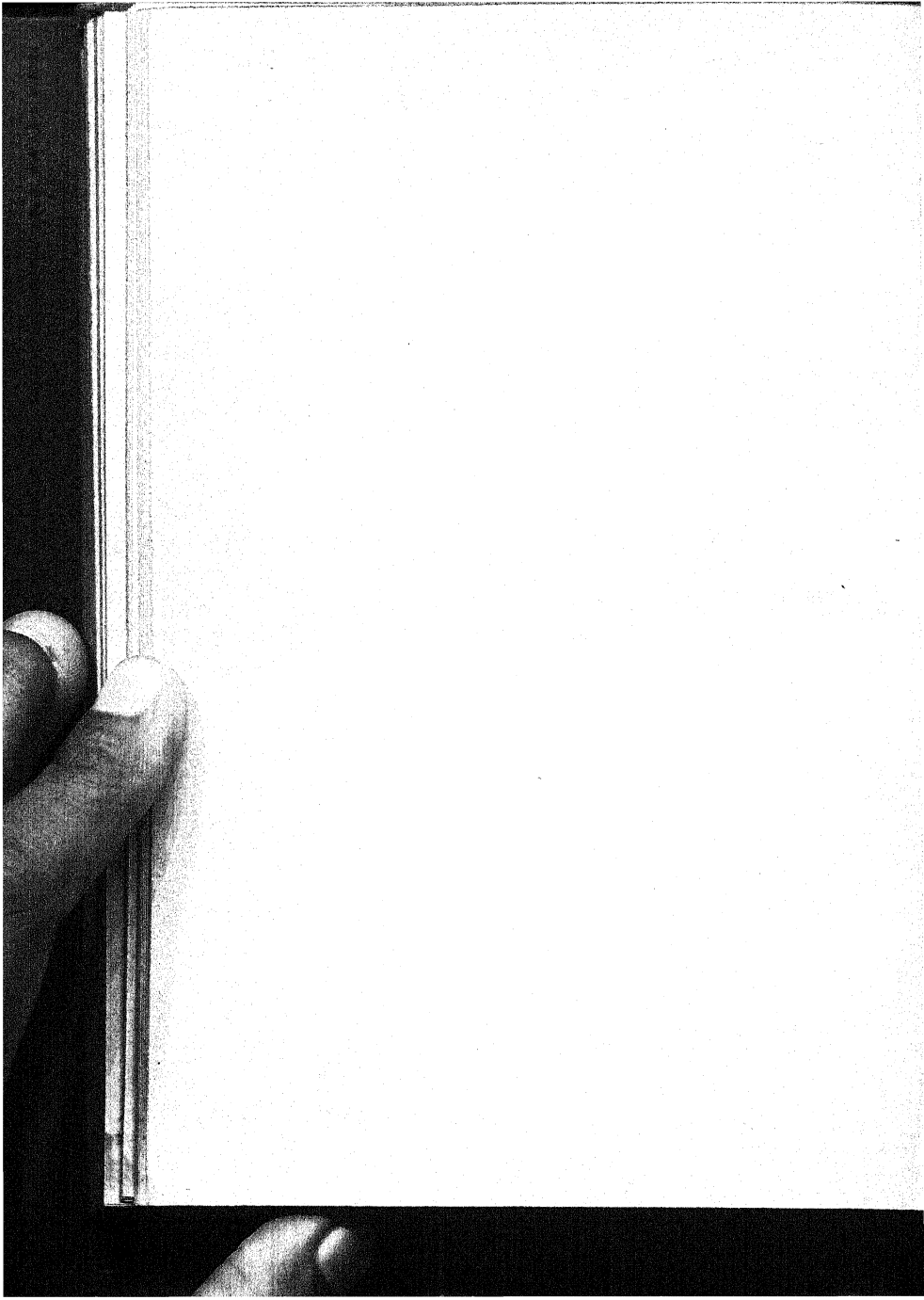
Williams, Mrs., 81.

Windham, 83.

Young, 54, 96.

Zeluco, Dr. Moore's, 112.

Zeuxis, 111.





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